

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2019/12 December 2019

Coming events

Christmas dinner	16 Dec
Chinese New Year dinner	29 Jan
Lantern workshop	2 Feb
Lantern Festival	8 Feb

Memberships are now due. See the back page for details.

Committee

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For your diary

Christmas dinner

Members and friends will gather for a Christmas dinner on Monday 16 Dec at YumCha@CBD, 32 West Row, Civic, at 7.00pm. The cost of the meal will be \$28 per person. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 13 December.

The draft menu is:

Steamed Dumpling
Lobster Dumpling

Salt & Pepper Fried Perl Mushrooms
Fillet Steak with Black Pepper Sauce
Pork with Mandarin Sauce
Prawns with Ginger & Shallots
Cumin Lamb
Steamed Chicken with Vegetables

Jasmine Rice
Dessert
Chinese Tea

Free parking after hours is available in the carpark next to the Police Station on London Circuit, and \$2 parking is available after hours in the Canberra Centre carpark.



Chinese New Year dinner

We will also welcome the Chinese New Year with a dinner at the China Tea Club, North Lyneham, on 29 January at 7.00pm. The cost will be ~\$28 per person. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 23 January.



Lantern-making workshop

The Lantern-making workshop will be held on Sunday 2 February from 1.00 to 4.00pm in the Community Hall at Cook.

Lantern Festival

The Lantern Festival for 2020 will be held on Saturday 8 February in the Beijing Garden, on the lake. This is our major event for the year and is proving very popular.

Fast facts from the Beijing Review, December 2019

- By the end of 2018 there were about 250 million people over 60 in China or 18% of the people. Officials estimate that the number of people over 60 in China will peak at 487 million by 2050, which will be over a third of the population.
- Chinese consumers are showing a growing preference for domestic brands. Searches for domestic brands rose from 38% of total brand searches in 2009 to 70% in 2019. Searches for consumer electronics had the biggest rises, searches for cultural and entertainment products also rose strongly.
- Since 1949 more than 150,000 Chinese cultural relics have been returned from overseas through law enforcement cooperation, lawsuits, negotiations and donations, according to the National Cultural Heritage Administration.
- Of the 670,000 buses and trolleybuses in China 340,000 of them are new (green) energy vehicles.
- The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2020 has for the first time ranked Chinese Mainland universities as the top 2 universities in Asia. Tsinghua University leads the continent in 23rd place, while Beijing University is 24th having overtaking the National University of Singapore for second place in Asia. There are 7 Chinese universities, in the top 200 the same as last year. THE review over 1,300 universities in 92 countries.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

Wanted: help with a PA system

Our long-term sound man for the Lantern Festival has retired so we are looking for anyone who may have or knows someone with an outdoor sound system we could use for the Lantern Festival for a suitable fee as commercial systems are very expensive to hire. Please email acfsevent@gmail.com or ring Carol on 62478231 if you can help.

Help with lantern sales

There is a great need for help with sales of lanterns. Tasks include handing out lanterns with LED lights and sticks, and taking payments. There is always a huge rush just before the lantern parade begins, so at least six people would be good. The more we have the more we can organise shifts so some volunteers can see some of the performances.

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## **Australian Centre on China in the World**

### **17 Dec 2019. International Conference on China and the World**

The Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program (CWP) is co-hosting a conference with the Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) in Canberra Australia's Australian National University (ANU) for this year's CWP Conference.

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Photo Exhibition – China in the eyes of Chinese Australian Photographers

Photography has become an important medium for communication between different cultures for its borderlessness and language-barrier-free. Photographers use cameras to capture moments to record life and express their emotions.



In this light, this exhibition selected 45 excellent works of three Chinese photographers residing in Australia, Jiang Changgeng, Zhang Guangqi and Xu Yiping, to show the local communities with a broad vision and unique perspective of China's beautiful natural scenery, profound cultural heritage and unique folk customs. The three photographers benefit from their particular life experience of growing up in China and migrating to Australia. They actively integrate Chinese and western cultures with photography art to record the history and development of

China, to express their love and respect to their motherland. From composition to conception, the works on display demonstrate harmonious colors and vibrant tension with strong visual impact and artistic appeals.

Opening: 18 December 2019, Wednesday, 6 PM
Dress Code: Smart Casual
RSVP: [Click Here](#)

When: 19 December 2019 - 15 January 2020, Mon - Fri, 10 AM - 1 PM, 2 PM - 5 PM
Where: China Cultural Centre in Sydney
Free entry



Committee News – November 2019 meeting

Your committee met at the 'Ruby restaurant' in Dickson for its November meeting.

A Panda competition post mortem was held. An unanimous thumbs up to the event was given – the biggest yet. The committee suggested it would not be able to manage many more than the 80 or so awards presented this year and needless to say, all took a deep breath when an Embassy representative suggested the group could think of organizing for an Australia wide event in future. It's certainly something we can promote to our State and Territory counterparts for them to consider. Many thanks were given again to all who volunteered their time and effort pre and during the event.

We discussed possible options for the PA system at the Lantern festival as our previous operator has retired. All performers at the Lantern Festival are to be contacted to both make sure they are available and have a valid certificate of currency for their PL insurance.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the ACT Government's Multicultural grant. Would be a good Christmas present to hear a positive decision for us.

Further preparation for our pre-Christmas dinner, Chinese New Year and the 2020 Lantern Festival was done. Hope to see as many of you at the pre-Christmas dinner on the 16 December.

The committee decided on a well-earned break from meetings, so won't regroup till early January 2020.

Post meeting we enjoyed a tasty meal trying a few different dishes. The pearl mushroom dish was particularly memorable.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Your Secretary, Tanja



Film night

The screening of the film *Forever Young* on Wed 20 November at the Labor Club in Belconnen was successful in the numbers of people attending, but was disappointing in that the quality of the film and particularly the subtitles were poor.

It appears that there are multiple films of the same title, and this was not the one recommended to us. Sorry! Will do better next time!

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## From Tradition to Fashion

### A Chinese designer brings Yi embroidery to the world stage

By Yu Shujun · 2019-09-23 · Source: *Beijing Review* NO. 39 SEPTEMBER 26, 2019



Women from the Yi ethnic group discuss their traditional embroidery craft on March 25 in a village located in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province (XINHUA)

Everyday wear like casual shirts, T-shirts, jackets and denim, embroidered with traditional floral and phoenix patterns from the Yi ethnic group, staged a stunning runway show at recent New York Fashion Week, which took place on September 4-11.

Designer Wang Tao, who has become a regular at the event since her debut in the fall of 2014, unveiled the Taoray Taoray Spring/Summer 2020 collection from her Chinese youth brand. It's the first time Wang brought the youth line of her namesake brand Taoray Wang to New York's runway.

The Taoray Wang collection, tailored to power women, has already gained popularity, with its most famous U.S. customer being Tiffany Trump, the youngest daughter of U.S. President Donald Trump, who wore a Taoray Wang outfit at her father's inauguration in January 2017.

Wang's new youth collection, embellished with Yi embroidery, a Chinese intangible cultural heritage, was a definite hit on the last night of the fashion week. The audience was amazed by both the exquisite and mostly hand-embroidered colorful patterns and the perfect balance of modern and traditional elements.

Leah Coulter, a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, who dressed the models for the show, said the collection was a mix of old and new and loved all the patterns and embroidery, which aroused her interest in the unique handicraft dating back thousands of years. "I need to learn more about its history," Coulter said.



Models present the Taoray Wang Spring/Summer 2020 collection at New York Fashion Week on September 11 (ZHAO WEI)

### **Reviving a tradition**

It's not something new in the fashion world to incorporate China's intangible cultural heritages as elements of design, Wang said, but it's not easy to make them into true fashion. "Intangible cultural heritages should not always be displayed in museums or only appear on souvenirs. I hope to break the stereotype [through using the Yi embroidery] and make them everyday, fashionable items," Wang told the media after the show. "I think fashion is the best way to introduce culture."

Wang's design ideas can be attributed to both her global experience as a fashion designer in Japan, the UK and China, and her unique educational background. Before receiving her second degree in fashion from Japan's top fashion institute Tokyo Mode Gakuen, she majored in history at East China Normal University in Shanghai.

In order to create her collection, Wang and her team went to Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Yunnan Province and delved into the culture and history of Yi's craftsmanship to gain insight into the essence, intricacy and symbolism of Yi embroidery. But Wang's incorporation of the patterns, colours and techniques of Yi embroidery in her contemporary fashion designs is not a simple duplication. The combination of modern and traditional can't be too striking for it to be widely accepted as everyday wear, Wang said, adding that her goal is for people, regardless of gender, color or nationality, to like her designs.

### **A helping hand**

According to Wang, the show is actually part of a poverty alleviation initiative launched by the Shanghai-based Orient International (Holding) Co. and the Chuxiong local government. She was in fact invited by the company to help Yi embroiders.

Although Yi embroidery has become an indispensable part of the life of the ethnic group, the ancient craftsmanship hasn't brought a decent livelihood to the inheritors. The Chuxiong local government has been making efforts to raise the living standard of local residents by promoting their craftsmanship.

According to Xu Xiaomei, a Chuxiong official, there are over 70,000 women doing embroidery in the prefecture, but the size of the industry is relatively small, with 400 businesses worth about 150 million yuan (\$21 million) in total. Moreover, the industry mainly focuses on producing apparel and daily essentials for Yi people, souvenirs, and ornaments on handbags, suitcases and phone cases, said Xu. Chuxiong has cooperated with Orient International, which presented Yi embroidery at Shanghai Fashion Week in April. It has also worked with Beijing-based EVE Group to create a database of patterns and embroiders so that global designers can access it and place their orders, Xu said.

Yi embroidery's presence at New York Fashion Week was a successful attempt to promote the intangible cultural heritage on the world stage, Xu added. If more people at home and abroad learn to appreciate the aesthetic of the technique, the industry will grow at a faster pace and the people in Chuxiong can live a more prosperous life, Xu said.

Many audience members flocked backstage after the show and some inquired about whether the collection will be put into mass production and sold on the market. Wang was glad to hear it. "If people are willing to buy daily clothes with such unique embroidery, it can really help the local embroiders in Chuxiong," she said.

**Thanks to Teck Lee for the link to this article.**



# Untold Stories Brought to Life

## US museum celebrates contributions of forgotten Chinese railroad workers

By Sherry Qin · 2019-11-11 · Source: *Beijing Review* NO.46 NOVEMBER 14, 2019



Herb Tam, Curator and Director of Exhibitions of MOCA, tells the story of Chinese laborers who were instrumental in building the First Transcontinental Railroad, in New York City on October 16 (ZHAO WEI)

While 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of a major milestone in US history, the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, an over 3,000-km rail link connecting the East Coast with the West Coast, its major workforce of about 12,000 Chinese immigrants remained long forgotten, and their contributions and sacrifices little recognized.

But last month, the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in New York City brought to light the untold stories in the making of the United States through the lens of the Chinese immigrant experience and redefined the American narrative with two comprehensive exhibitions. *Collecting and Documenting Chinese American History* and *The Chinese Helped Build the Railroad—The Railroad Helped Build America* opened in MOCA on October 17 and will run till March 22, 2020.

MOCA brought together descendants of the railroad workers and representatives of history societies that document the history of the Chinese to show a collective image of often neglected and discriminated-against Chinese immigrants. "We are urgently presenting these stories; and we are eager and anxious about [them] not only because we are fraught with tensions in the bilateral relationship, [but because] we are fraught with the attention of Asian-Americans and our roles in this country," MOCA President Nancy Yao Maasbach said.

### Putting the US on track

In a 1927 article in *The Southern Pacific Bulletin*, Erle Heath, then associate editor of the publication, wrote how the Chinese workers, who were nicknamed iron workers, laid over 16 km of tracks in 12 hours back in 1869.

However, none of their names were known. They were all remembered as "John Chinaman." "After 200 years [of] being a fundamental part of the fabric of this country, tell me one hero you know of Chinese ancestry," Maasbach said. "We have a legacy here that is unfortunate. It is discrimination and racism, we are fighting that every day."

The Chinese Helped Build the Railroad–The Railroad Helped Build America presents the collective journey of the Chinese laborers through historical and contemporary photographs of the sites along the route by photographer Li Ju.

Now institutions, historical organizations and museums have joined forces to give voice to the long-neglected Chinese immigrants. Twenty-eight historical societies, museums and projects from 13 U.S. states ranging from the East Coast to the Hawaiian Islands shared their studies and memories of early Chinese immigrants through historical objects. "These organizations were founded as public history spaces to highlight and celebrate the under-recognized contributions of Chinese people to American history and culture," Herb Tam, Curator and Director of Exhibitions at MOCA, said.

Stanford University initiated the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project to educate the next generation on this pivotal but long-forgotten history. Stanford designed an interactive website and four lessons for high school audiences to learn both about Chinese railroad workers and Chinese culture.

### **US town, Chinese history**

Michael Perrone, President of the Belleville Historical Society in New Jersey, recalled their efforts to preserve the history of Chinese immigrants in Belleville, a city known for its campaign against slavery. "We always think New York City is the first Chinese immigrant settlement in the eastern United States, but actually the first Chinese community was established in Belleville in 1870," Perrone told *Beijing Review*.

Belleville, home of the country's largest commercial laundry at the time, was eager to employ a more stable labour force. A retired sea captain James Hervey hired the Chinese laborers, who came to the East Coast for job opportunities after completing the railroad, for his Passaic Steam Laundry, according to a study by the Belleville Historical Society.

The first 68 Chinese workers arrived in 1870 and expanded their population in the next 15 years. "The first Chinese New Year was celebrated here in January 1871, the first school for the Chinese opened here in September 1871, the first Chinese immigrant was buried here," Perrone said. In 2016, Perrone and his colleagues built a red brick monument topped with a white pagoda roof in remembrance of the Chinese immigrants in Belleville. The day following the completion of the monument, they saw something sticking out in the immigrants' cemetery. It turned out to be a seaming iron, the kind a laundry worker would use.

"For 20 years, we cleaned that cemetery and probed every square, but did not find a thing. This particular iron may or may not be from a Chinese immigrant, but the message was from the Chinese workers," Perrone said. "Now we are preparing for next year, which is the 150th anniversary of the Chinese coming to Belleville. We are working on constructing a dragon boat and have many activities planned," he added.

## **The Chinese legacy**

Gerry Low-Sabado, a fifth-generation descendant whose ancestors came from a Chinese fishing village and then worked on the railroad, shared her family's story back to the 1850s. The 69-year-old said her ancestors sailed across the Pacific from China to California in an engineless boat in the 1850s and her great-grandfather Quock Tuck Lee helped build the rail line to Monterey and Pacific Grove.

As a community preservationist in Fremont, California, Low-Sabado has initiated the Walk of Remembrance to tell the story of the early pioneering Chinese-American fishing village that existed in Pacific Grove from 1854 to 1907. The 2019 Walk of Remembrance on May 4 marked the 10th walk to honor the Chinese immigrants.

On the 150th anniversary of the completion of the last section of the railroad between Sacramento and Oakland in California, Low-Sabado attended the "true completion of the transcontinental ceremony."

"I was trying to reclaim my ancestors' real Chinese-American history and bring about a change in the play by bringing respect to the Chinese, what I call 'change with kindness,'" she said.

"With my generation, because of the Chinese Exclusion Act, my parents did not teach us Chinese. But we still carried on the traditions, like the Qingming Festival," she said.

The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers, was the earliest anti-immigration measure targeting a specific community and was made permanent in 1902. The Qingming Festival, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day, is a traditional Chinese festival when families remember and pay tributes to their ancestors.

Low-Sabado showed up at the MOCA exhibition in a red traditional Chinese jacket with a straw bucket hat in hand, part of her family's fishing heritage.

"On special occasions, I encourage my kids to come to the events to represent the next generation [of Chinese immigrants]," she said.

**Thanks to Teck Lee for the link to this article.**



## China's insatiable appetite for an autumn delicacy

By Xu Junqian | China Daily |  
Updated: 2019-11-29 08:10

### Versatile ingredient

Named after its furry claws, hairy crabs are native to China and have been enjoyed by the locals for centuries. This shellfish is coveted for its creamy and savoury roes.

While the hairy crab is mostly available only during the autumn months - this is when the drop in temperatures result in the creature accumulating fat to stay warm - there is a long-standing tradition to make crab butter that can be savoured all year round.



Braised hairy crab and shrimp with dough ball in sour soup from Maison on One. [Photo provided to China Daily]

Making this butter is a painstaking process that includes dissecting and digging out every morsel of flesh and roe by hand before slow cooking it for hours with pork fat. Known in Chinese as tu huang you, crab butter is believed to be created by home cooks who worked for rich clans in late 19th century.

"The diversity and possibilities within this fist-sized shellfish are infinite," says Wu Yi, executive chef of Maison on One, the Chinese restaurant in Bellagio Shanghai, an ultra-luxury hotel backed by China's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse and American leisure giant MGM Resort International.

"It can be either savored alone as an individual course, or paired together with a variety of vegetables, seafood and staples," adds Wu, a 46-year-old Shanghai native.

At Maison on One, which offers a range of Chinese cuisines, including Cantonese, Sichuan and Shanghai, Wu has created a special crab menu featuring 13 dishes. One of his proudest creations, he says, is a lasagna-inspired dish that replaces flour with tofu and cheese with crab roe. Even the desserts are made using hairy crab.

# Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 January and are current until 31 December of the same year. The monthly Bulletin is included in the subscription and is distributed by email.

Subscription rates, payable to **the Treasurer, PO Box 530, Civic Square ACT 2608** are:  
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