



Newsletter

MISSISSIPPI DELTA CHINESE HERITAGE MUSEUM, INC.

2021 Vol. 1

From the Editor

We are delighted to bring to you our Spring edition of the MDCHM newsletter for 2021. As our nation is undergoing a positive recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in many sections of the country, we're able to present two articles with primary focus on the virus. One of our members, Doctor Fun Fong, who is an Emergency Room physician in Atlanta, presents valuable insight from his professional observations in his practice. We also have an account from one of our members who actually contracted the virus, and details his struggles in overcoming his encounter with the virus.



We also have a presentation by Raymond Seid chronicling a conversation with past members of "The Lucky Eleven" with acclaimed video journalist Dolly Li. She is inspired with documenting the history of the club and detailing the social significance it had with the young Chinese Americans in the Delta area.

Of course, Gilroy will bring to your attention his takes on past events of MDCHM and what he sees on the horizon. Worth mentioning are reminders of how you can still help in gathering and submitting your recipes to the Delta Wok project, and another way of helping by just assigning MDCHM as your charitable target when purchasing groceries from your supermarket or purchases from Amazon. Also, news regarding CAWW2 - The Regional WWII Recognition Houston, Texas, September 5, 2021. Also scheduled is the "GALA Gold Medal Ceremony to be held in DC September 28-30. See details at <https://caww2.regfox.com/caww2-veterans-cgm-ceremony>.

I have noted some interesting articles very well worth your attention regarding families either in the Mississippi or Arkansas delta. Check out <https://www.southernfoodways.org/minding-the-store/> and <https://facebook.com/groups/2160328294278342/permalink/2798774563767042/>. Also, if you have yet to view the award winning documentary "Far East Deep South", PBS will be showing the feature on June 15, 2021 at 8 P.M. Harry Gong, editor

From the desk of the President May 17, 2021

It's hard to believe how time has a way of slipping away from us. So much has happened in our lives, in the country and world since our last newsletter. Less than a few months ago you had never heard the words COVID-19, corona virus or the term pandemic, that have impacted us in so many ways. We are adjusting, learning and living, a new "normal" in our time. On a personal note, I am recovering from a 5 by-pass coronary surgery and recuperating fine for 15 months now. Many thanks for the prayers lifted during my recovery time.



The MDCHM Board and General Membership meeting has been completed as we wrapped up our 2020 season. What an exciting time to see the interest generated by the Mississippi Delta Chinese Museum and its activities and events. This year AAPI month has even stimulated interest further.

We had an extremely successful Summer 2019 Mini-Reunion featuring MS Delta folks that were part of the Apollo Missions 50 years ago. They spoke in a symposium format and visitors were treated to MDCHM's display of fascinating artifacts and personal mementos from the Apollo Project, sending men to the moon. Space Camp featured live model rocket launches!

During the mini-reunion the new MDCHM LEGACY WALL was unveiled. It is a beautiful rendering of a way to honor and remember our donors and supporters in an inspiring, tasteful, and meaningful way. Our many thanks to Harry Gong, Jeannie Dunn, Frieda Quon, and Jean Maskas for their insight to design and execute this lasting tribute and honor for all to enjoy. We are grateful to the many who have chosen to support the Museum in remembering their loved ones. MDCHM has received over \$6,000 in Memorial Donations in 2020. The updated donation form is available on the MDCHM website.

Then in September, 2019 our "Where Are They Now" series featured the life and stellar Hollywood, Broadway, and media career of Virginia Faye Wing. A film clip showcasing and honoring her life and times was shown at BPAC followed by a forum for Questions and Answers from her and her family. This forum gave wonderful insight into her illustrious career on stage.

As plans are being laid for the 2021 MDCHM year, we looked forward to paying tribute to others who have contributed to the MS Delta Chinese history in so many venues and aspects of life. Please give your suggestions to Board members in the days ahead. In spite of COVID we continue to get inquiries as to Chinese life in the MS Delta current and in the past. Most recent aired was a visit by PBS' Vivian Howard for an episode on "Chinese Dumplings" featuring Carol Chinn, and then Sean Cables from CGTV (China) discussing COVID's effect on current MS Chinese. The link for this is <https://youtu.be/aBexGOu.FCU>. It featured Taylor Pang's farming in Marks, and Emily Jones at the MDCHM.

The WWII Congressional Gold Medal award ceremonies and presentations are postponed indefinitely for Washington and other locations due to COVID protocols. Please be aware that you can still get veterans registered or buy memorial pages for the award books online at www.caww2.org. The Pink Palace Museum in Memphis has postponed their Chinese Exhibit indefinitely. Nur Abdulla was heading up this exhibit but has been furloughed.

Thanks for taking the time to support your museum even in this pandemic environment and let us know what you would like to see in and around it. We want to add, enhance, enlarge, even create virtual exhibits and displays in keeping with our mission of honoring our predecessors. Please stay safe, stay in touch!

The Corona Virus Hits Home

Jeff Wong Guest Columnist MDCHM Board Member

To say that 2020 was a very challenging year for everyone is quite the understatement. The Covid-19 pandemic not only took the lives of millions of people worldwide but also brought the global economy to a screeching halt.

You know the virus is for real when it strikes one of our own. My cousin Herbert Wong, a Greenville, Mississippi native, presently resides in Berkeley, California. He has shared with me his up close and personal experience with COVID-19.

Not for sure but Herbert suspects he contacted the COVID virus at a very busy local restaurant after he got back from Hawaii. He felt a cold coming on when he started coughing, getting a headache and the chills. He woke up one morning and was so weak he could not walk to the bathroom. That day he happened to have a check up with his family doctor and at that time he was tested positive for Covid and was admitted in the ER at a hospital which was across the street from the clinic.

In hospital from March 31 to April 21, 2020...in ICU for 17 days...Was in an induced coma for 12 days, he thought he'd only been under for one...All hospital personnel had to wear sealed suits when they entered his room, not just being covered up with a mask or a shield...Was given the drug, Actemra, at \$1500 per dose...Had to have two consecutive negative Covid tests 12 hours apart before he could be released from the hospital...They used what Herbert called the "brain tickler" swabs.

Herbert was the first COVID-19 survivor from that hospital and they gave him a going away party. He didn't want to ask what happened to the ones before him. He now walks at least 2 miles a day to build back up his stamina. He used to carry an oxygen tank while walking but now that's not even necessary. Even before Covid, he exercised regularly while walking in his neighborhood. I believe that and the grace of God allowed Herbert to survive this wicked virus.

Just a little sidenote. Herbert lost 12 pounds while in the hospital but has gained back 22; he must be feeling better!



DIY COVID-19 treatment

Fun Fong, MD FACEP



COVID-19 – There are so many ways that it has affected us! All of us have read a body of COVID-19 information, and they are likely all different. COVID-19, has a political dimension has been polarizing and depending on the source, what one reads may not be what another understands. I have noticed a large subset of our population have had great fear in interacting in public.

I have approached COVID-19 from standpoint of the clinician that has been wanting to take advantage of new scientific knowledge as it happens to reduce morbidity and mortality in patients. We have had to make decisions based on the best information known at the time. COVID-19 knowledge has evolved and changed considerably since the pandemic started. Additionally, COVID-19 infections seem to have changed over time, as diseases will do.

The first informal reports from China were that steroids were to be avoided. We should not drown patients in fluids as we do with septic patients. This advice was found to be wrong. It is important that people that think they have contracted COVID-19 be treated early, just as in any other viral illness. Early treatment gives much better chances of avoiding what I call, "the pathway of Doom." One of the secrets that people are learning is that people who have contracted COVID-19 can actually use over-the-counter meds to get better.

Vitamin C, 1000 mg daily, Vitamin D3 5000u daily, Pepcid 20mg twice daily, Melatonin 5 mg nightly, and Zinc (50mg elemental) can lead to recovery. I have seen dramatic recovery in at least one member of our clan, who was ill with a fever for approximately 9 days and had declining oxygen saturation.

Clinicians can add convalescent plasma, mono or polyclonal antibody, ivermectin, decadron, and hydroxychloroquine/azithromycin (if an EKG has been performed). These could all be given on an outpatient basis. The vaccines have been shown to confer immunity for at least 8 months (and counting). As far as we can tell, immunity is being actively stored in our immune memory cells, with good prospect for having immunity for a few years.



Mississippi State Flag Presented

On January 4, 2021, representatives of Sue Anna Joe's family and I met with the mayor of Greenwood, MS, Carolyn McAdams, to present to the City of Greenwood the newly approved official state flag. Sue Anna's mother, Miuyin (Maria) Joe, and sister, Belinda Joe Marriott, were present in dedicating the flag on behalf of the family and MDCHM.

Sue Anna was one of three individuals credited with the design, as her portrayal of the Magnolia flower was the flag's primary focus, as it was dubbed "The New Magnolia". In an article presented in "The Greenwood Commonwealth" Sue Anna, a native of Greenwood, was stoic regarding the feelings of her input in the flag's design. She stated that her family was much more excited that her part in the flag's design won the votes of the citizens of Mississippi. As the mayor of Greenwood exclaimed, "This is a certainly a Big Deal for the state of Mississippi and the city of Greenwood."



Lucky 11 Screenplay?

On Wednesday March 3, 2021 Raymond Wong, Dan Tom and myself were Zoom-interviewed for 2 hours by Dolly Li for a screenplay about the Lucky Eleven social organization at Mississippi State University. The three of us were latter members of the Lucky Eleven. Dolly is a video journalist from Brooklyn, New York and attended Rice University in Houston. She has been a journalist for 6 years and is currently living in Los Angeles. Dolly produced the 2017 documentary "The Untold Story of America's Southern Chinese" an Al Jazeera production which captured worldwide acclaim on literally introducing the Mississippi Delta Chinese to the world.



Dolly quizzed us on life as a Chinese student on the college campus. We gave Dolly a bit of the background on the Lucky Eleven and how 11 Mississippi Delta Chinese students came together and started the campus social organization in 1952. We stressed that the Lucky Eleven was a very informal group whose primary purpose was to host a Christmas Dance for Chinese youths from mostly the Mississippi and Arkansas Delta, and Tennessee to meet each other. The Dance grew to become quite an elaborate affair attracting several hundred youths at the Dance which rapidly became the social event of the year for the next 20 years. The topic of selecting a Lucky Eleven Sweetheart struck Dolly quite endearingly, and we schooled her on how the Sweetheart was selected by the members via secret ballot, and how the Sweetheart was subsequently announced at the Dance's intermission. The Dance provided social structure to Delta Chinese youths aside from typical gatherings for weddings. We breached the subject of not feeling quite warmly welcomed by the Greek fraternities on campus which surely gave impetus for the Chinese students to form the Lucky Eleven.



We made the recommendation that Dolly should interview a broader segment of Delta Chinese for a more complete perspective on the Lucky Eleven. Specifically, Lucky Eleven member George Jee would be an excellent source for the early years of the Lucky Eleven. Harry Gong, an alumnus of the University of Mississippi, would also be an excellent source of information from a non-member's perspective on the Lucky Eleven. Finally, we suggested that Dolly should interview some Lucky Eleven Sweethearts for their perspective on the Lucky Eleven.....the names Betty Jean Wong and Joy Chow were mentioned.

To anchor Dolly with a solid background about the Lucky Eleven organization, I provided her with the 1988 8-page article entitled "The Way We Were" authored by Gay Chow, an excellent rendition of daily life for the Chinese student on the Mississippi State college campus. The article was published in the 1987 Big Event souvenir booklet which would surely prove to be essential in writing the screenplay. Additionally, I provided Dolly with a list of Lucky Eleven memberships through the 20 years of its existence as well as a list of Lucky Eleven Sweethearts and a listing of the original 11 founding members of the Lucky Eleven. These were all from the 1987 Big Event booklet.

Raymond Seid <bahtbaht@yahoo.com> 3/13/2021

RECIPE REQUEST (for Delta Wok Project)

Through a Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area grant, the "Delta Wok" is preserving and documenting the preparation of traditional Chinese meals of the Mississippi Delta Chinese. We are collecting recipes, cooking stories, and photographs of family and friends as well as recordings of cooking demonstrations.

Please email your cooking treasures to Gabriella Sang at gsang888@gmail.com or mail to DSU Archives, Attn:MDCHM Recipes, DSU Box 3137, Cleveland, MS 38733.

Support MDCHM When You Shop

The Kroger Family of Companies donates to participating organizations based on a percentage of spending. Depending on where you live and if you shop with The Kroger Family of Companies (such as Kroger, Fred Meyer, Ralph's, Smith's, etc.), you may be able to participate in Kroger Community Rewards by linking your shopper's card to MDCHM. Sign in to your account and select Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum or BT044. If you live outside the Delta area, hopefully the museum will be listed in your region.

Amazon provides support to participating charitable organizations. Make your Amazon purchases through AmazonSmile. When you designate Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum as your organization of choice, a percentage of your spending will be directed to MDCHM. Instead of logging in through <http://www.amazon.com>, use <http://www.smile.amazon.com> - your regular account will transfer info to the 'smile' account.

These donations to MDCHM are at no additional cost to the shopper. Kroger and Amazon offer these fundraising programs to help organizations. Please participate and support our museum!

Spotlighting a Board Member



Jeff Wong, Drew, MS native, is currently serving his second stint on the MDCHM board of directors. He resides in Madison with his wife Karen.

The Drew High and Ole Miss graduate vividly remembers selling beer to Archie Manning at his family's grocery store. The many artifacts at the museum brings back fond memories of his Delta life in Drew. Jeff is currently enjoying retirement life as "everyday's a Saturday."