

AsianWeek

Social Notes: A Thanksgiving Remembrance

November 30, 2009

As the first social columnist for *AsianWeek* newspaper and as the last surviving member of the founding team, I have seen the change in attitude from a very harsh portrayal of Chinese people by the public media to a more reasonable and fairer portrayal of Asians as reported in today's news.

Heartiest congratulations to Assemblyman Mike Eng and Sacramento activist Steve Yee who authored the legislation that commemorates the repeal of the anti-Chinese Immigration Acts of 1872, on Dec. 17, 1943, resulting in the new, first-time "Chinese Inclusion Act" to be celebrated on Dec. 17, 2009.

For over 60 years, the Chinese people were the only ethnic group to be excluded from US immigration. When the 1943 Magnuson Act repealed that despicable US law, Chinese could bring their wives and families together again. Thus, it is only fitting and proper that all Chinese should observe and celebrate their "Day of Inclusion" on Dec. 17, in their own way, thanks to Assemblyman Eng, Sacramento's Steve Yee and all the California legislators who voted and passed their resolution.

As a Sacramento native, I appreciate the historic growth and immense progress made in my old hometown. The recent Chinatown Mall Culture Fair in Sacramento was a model of neat programs that served the community well with special programs of talent, music, dance, martial arts, fashions, and lion dancing. Also, community services, demonstrations of hands-on activities, exhibit booths, noted authors' stories and the experience of Angel Island fascinated the large crowd in attendance.

Leave it to the thoughtful Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation to plan an entire street devoted to children's games and cultural activities, all managed by the older kids. Themed "Gateway to Gold Mountain: Bridging the Past to the Future," it was a wonderful way for the young and not-so-young to connect and share our Chinese culture and history.