AACP's January 2006 Poetry Selection

The following poems are copyrighted and are used with permission from the authors.

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* reminds 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

---

## 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 or 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. AACP 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 AACP. So next year we really want to see some of your works.

Leonard Chan

**Executive Editor**

---

## Up Coming Events

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14 1pm</td>
<td><strong>Poetry In San Mateo Day - A Beginning of the Year Poetry Celebration</strong></td>
<td>529 E. 3rd Ave. San Mateo, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4 11:30am</td>
<td><strong>Book Release Celebration of In Good Conscience</strong></td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19 5-8pm</td>
<td><strong>San Mateo JACL Day of Remembrance</strong> Film showing at 6pm</td>
<td>College of San Mateo San Mateo, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19 5:30pm</td>
<td><strong>The 26th Annual SJ Day of Remembrance Stand Up for Justice</strong></td>
<td>Betsuin Buddhist Church 640 N 5th St. San Jose, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 3-5</td>
<td><strong>California Council for the Social Studies Conference</strong></td>
<td>Town &amp; Country Inn San Diego, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td><strong>Chinese New Year's Celebration</strong></td>
<td>Stockton Civic Aud. 525 N. Center St. Stockton, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11-12</td>
<td><strong>Reading the World VII USF</strong></td>
<td>2350 Turk Blvd. San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Event of Interest that AACP 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      |
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 books are discounted an additional 20% from the listed price for subscribers to our newsletter. The discounts on these books end February 5, 2006.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Discounted Price for Subscribers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stone Bow Prayer</strong></td>
<td>Amy Uyematsu</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$11.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Bow Prayer</td>
<td>By Amy Uyematsu</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$11.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Bow Prayer</td>
<td>Amy Uyematsu</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$11.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beyond the Great Mountains</strong></td>
<td>Ed Young</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hardback.</td>
<td>$14.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond the Great Mountains</td>
<td>By Ed Young</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hardback.</td>
<td>$14.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Circle</strong></td>
<td>Victoria Chang</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$11.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle</td>
<td>By Victoria Chang</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$11.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian American Poetry</strong></td>
<td>Edited by Victoria Chang</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$15.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American Poetry</td>
<td>Edited by Victoria Chang</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$15.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper Son</strong></td>
<td>By Tung Pok Chin with Winifred C. Chin</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$18.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Son</td>
<td>By Tung Pok Chin with Winifred C. Chin</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Paperback.</td>
<td>$18.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© 2006 by Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc. (a non-profit organization since 1970) Visit our website at AsianAmericanBooks.com

529 East Third Avenue, San Mateo, California 94401 Tel 650-375-8286 or 800-874-2242

Page 4