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Artist Ken Taya with the dragon he created as our 2012 Celebrate Year of the Dragon image. Ken is also one of the artists featured in our new exhibition, Asian American Arcade.
Message From the Executive Director

Happy New Year of the Water Dragon! Lunar year 4710 is said to be one of major progress in the realm of diplomatic and global issues, and is a good time to examine the global significance of our daily efforts.

In October I was one of 56 individuals invited to participate in an international seminar in Salzburg, Austria, examining Libraries and Museums in an Era of Participatory Culture. This Salzburg Global Seminar, supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), gathered cultural leaders from 23 countries to rethink our roles and responsibilities in a time defined by economic disruptions, massive population shifts and the transformation of public expectations for individual cultural participation because of technology.

The Wing was one of three U.S. museums represented, and I was asked to facilitate Culture and Communities, one of the five working groups. I was inspired by the work of each of our global colleagues, including Rudo Sithole, the Director of the International Council of African Museums AFRICOM; Anupam Sah, founder of The Himalayan Society for Heritage and Art Conservation, at Ranibagh, India; and Michelle Hippolet, Kaikau (Maori leader) of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. As summarized by Gabriela Aidar, from the Sociocultural Inclusion program of the Pinacoteca do Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil (art museum): “Participation in cultural activities, together with access to them, forms the backbone of human rights pertaining to culture.”

Thank you to the IMLS and congratulations to all in The Wing family for supporting The Wing’s explorations and voyages into uncharted territories. Clearly the world demands that all hands are on deck in the search for human advancement, including our cultural institutions.

On Saturday, January 21, over 1500 people came to The Wing to participate in Lunar New Year activities, our highest visitation day since the Grand Opening in 2008. Warm and grateful thanks for being part of this global journey.

Beth Takekawa, Executive Director

Thank You and Welcome

Welcome to Pankaj Nath, the newest member of our Board of Trustees. At JPMorgan Chase Bank in Seattle, Pankaj is a vice president and banker serving the needs of businesses in the Puget Sound area, especially those in technology/bio tech as well as companies dealing in international trade. Previously, he held positions at Citi Private Bank and Bank of America. He serves on the organizing committee of Celebrate Asia and has served on the board of the Indian Association of Western Washington, and has volunteered for the Chinese Information and Service Center and Chaya.

Sung Yang has stepped down from his position as Vice President of our Board of Trustees, but will continue to serve as a board member. We appreciate his hard work and dedication and his continuing commitment to the board. Thank you, Sung!

Congratulations to board member Katherine Cheng who has stepped up to an officer position as the new Vice President. Thank you, Katherine, for your leadership!

Please welcome new staff members who recently joined the Museum: Toryan Dixon, Maria Martinez, Doan Nguyen, and Annia Yoshizumi.

Thank you to staff members who concluded their service to the Museum over the course of the past six months: Russel Barend, Daniel Guan, Suzanne Hu, Ammara Kimso, Howard King, Vi Mar, and Robin Park.
Up Close With...

Meet Me at Higo: An Enduring Story of a Japanese American Family Exhibition on display through May 27, 2012

Book by Ken Mochizuki, available in The Wing Marketplace

Aya and Masa Murakami, former owners of the Higo 10 Cents Store in Seattle’s Nihonmachi (Japantown), taught a fourth grade class at the Minidoka concentration camp. As one of their assignments, they asked students to write autobiographies. Transcribed exactly as written (even with misspellings and grammar mistakes), these writings provide samples of candid reflections by children during the war. The following are excerpted from the Meet Me at Higo book.

Auto-Biography of Ayako Jean Fujii

I was born in Seattle Washington on November 17, 1933 at Columbus Hospital at 10:A.M. I am the second child in the family. I have no brothers but two sisters. One is smaller than I am and the other is older than I.

My father was working in his factory making soda-pops.

When I was 7 months old my teeth started to come up. When I was a little older I used to get into mischief many times.

Then I soon went to kindergarten. My teacher’s name was Miss Waterhouse. She was very kind and I liked her. Then I went to 1st 2nd 3rd & 4th grade. I had many friends that I used to play with. Some were Shizuko, Sakiye, Barbara, Tamaye and many others.

I went to Vancouver, Bremerton and some more places.

We used to have fun at our school playing catch, dogde ball, tag & having races.

Then we had to evacuate. We packed our things from morning till late in the night. About 8: A.M. we started to go to Puyallup on May 1st.

The school in Puyallup wasn’t very bad. First in the morning was language and next was athletics etc.

Then 4 months later we boarded the train on September 1st. Then we came to Idaho! How different Idaho is compared to Puyallup!

The houses here are much different because they have steps & a hall way. I got to know many new friends here some are Masae, Miriam, Frances, Mitsuye & other friends.

We had 5 or 6 teachers. The first teacher was Miss Yorozu next was Miss Ikeda etc.

The scenery here is just sagebrush – sagebrush all surrounding us.

When I grow big I plan to be an office girl.

Continued on page 4

Bon Voyage to Vi and Howard

We bid a fond farewell to retiring staff members Vi Mar and Howard King. Vi Mar founded and began operating Chinatown Discovery Tours in 1985. Thanks to Vi’s generous donation of her business to The Wing, Chinatown Discovery Tours has been a program of the Museum since 2007. Through it, the Museum has been able to share the rich history, diverse cultures and small businesses of the Chinatown-International District with thousands of visitors each year. Significantly, Chinatown Discovery Tours has been of critical importance in helping the Museum sustain its operations, both today and into the future.

While neither Vi nor Howard will be leading tours at the Museum any longer, they will continue to remain active in the community.

Vi and Howard: Enjoy your upcoming worldwide traveling adventures!
Memories of Wing Luke
Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Wing Luke’s Election to the Seattle City Council (1962)

In our last The Wing Newsletter, we asked you to send us your memories and impressions of Wing Luke. Thank you for your responses. Below are some excerpts:

Yes, I knew Wing Luke! I met him while a student at the U. W. in the early 1950s... He was older, perhaps in law school then.

How thrilled I was to receive a recent fundraising letter from the museum which told me more about Wing, such as overcoming his unhappy early school experiences to end up class president at Roosevelt High School, which I did know. I hadn’t realized (until I challenged a journalist who wrote about him) that he was born and spent his early years in China. Because of his references to the family grocery and laundry, I assumed he was born in Seattle. Maybe those early years in China helped explain his personality, which to me seemed different than might be the case with a first generation Chinese American. I am amazed that I did not know he was a veteran of WW2.

I attended a party with him once when he was an Assistant Attorney General, and did my first political campaigning when he ran for Seattle City Council. How proud we all were when he won! (How could I have forgotten that he was the FIRST person of color elected? I did know that he was the 1st Asian American. Apparently it was later that Sam Smith became the first black to be elected.)

What a tragedy that Wing died so young. Who knows what he might have accomplished. What a tribute to him to have the Wing Luke Museum. And I think he would have been very pleased to see it in its present location and its

Continued from page 3

Auto-biography of Shokichi Tokita

I was born on March 23, 1934 at Beacon Hill, Seattle, Wash. I was the first child to be born. I have 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

My parents worked at a hotel named Cadillac Hotel. My mother said that we earned a lot of money there at the hotel. When I was a baby I fell down the stairs. Sometimes I fell off the bed. When I was five years old I went to kindergarten. Then I got friends with other children. Some of my friends were Yoshio, George, and Jerry.

Most of the Sundays we went on to the beach when it was hot. Some time I swam. It was a lot of fun to go swimming but now I cannot go!

After I graduated from kindergarten I went to first grade, then to second grade third and then 4th grade. After the war started we evacuated to Puyallup. Puyallup was the place where there was a fair. There were bobed wires all around the camp.

There were towers on all three sides of the camp, and soldiers were guarding us all day and night.

We went there on May first and came to Idaho September first. First time I came here I didn’t know there were blocks, but I knew there were forty-four blocks. Each block there are 12 barracks. I live in block 38, barracks 8, rooms e and f. I do not have much friends over here.

I had more friends over at the Seattle school.

The teachers name was Sister Marcol. She was a very good and kind teacher. I liked her very much.

At Idaho the scenery is very pretty. When the sun goes down the sky is beautiful. There is a canal and in the canal you can fish.

When I grow up I plan to be a business man or a baseball player.

Through family photographs, letters, diary entries, newspaper articles and interviews along with autobiographies of other Japanese Americans, the Meet Me at Higo exhibition and accompanying book chronicles the Murakami family story over nearly 100 years, from the first generation (Issei) experience of arriving in America through the incarceration experience. It also captures the rise and decline of Nihonmachi with recent community efforts to revitalize the neighborhood.

The Meet Me at Higo book, written by Ken Mochizuki, is available for purchase in The Marketplace at The Wing.

Wing and I were “classmates,” but in the same way thousands of other UW students were: people who saw each other regularly on campus and in student activities. Frankly, my first memory of him was the clever cartooning Wing created for the campus newspaper the Daily and the campus humor magazine (then) Columns... Wing was good — in finding humor and portraying it cleverly and well.

In checking with copies of the UW yearbook the Tyee, further reminders arose. In the 1949 Tyee, Wing was listed as one of the twelve “Junior Class Prominents,” with these words: “In addition to cartooning for Columns and the Daily, WING LUKE somehow found time for Purple Shield, ASUW Publications, public relations and social events committees ... and duties as Sophomore Class and YMCA presidents.”

It sounds like Wing clearly was a student leader and someone you would like to know, doesn’t it? I wish I had been able to know him even better.

– Robert B. Edgers, University of Washington, Class of 1952

In the early 1950s, Wing Luke worked as a clerk in the Acquisitions Dept. at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Library. I worked in Cataloging next door.

During the time we were at Agriculture, Wing and I had lunch together in the Agriculture Cafeteria often.

Wing’s association with the U.S. Congressman from his district made it possible for one of my friends to write a speech for the Congressman.

There are memories from fifty years ago.

– Masse Bloomfield

Continued from page 4

focus on the Asian Pacific American experience.

— Elizabeth Jallie Bagshaw

We were students at the University of Washington at the same time, the late 1940s and the early 1950s... Actually, that is one reason I became a Charter Member of the Wing Luke Museum... to pay tribute to someone I admired on campus, all those years ago. He was capable, hard working, friendly and possessed a good sense of humor.

One of the things that Wing did while he was at Agriculture was to create cartoons for the Agriculture in-house newspaper. The Dept. of Agriculture was kind enough to make microfilm available of the time period that Wing was working there. When I looked at the microfilm, I found at least two cartoons that Wing created for the paper. That microfilm should be in the Wing Luke Museum.

In November, The Wing and the greater community lost a dear friend, Ark G. Chin. He was a leader, philanthropist, and mentor to many. Ark and Wing Luke were in the “Young Turks” together in the mid 1950s, a group that were the first generation of Chinese Americans with roots in the community who were bilingual, educated and inventing a hybrid of old and new ideas to bring the Chinese American community into a modern next level. We will miss Ark very much.

In 1955, I was a graduate student in Political Science at The University of Washington. I chose to write a paper on the election of Wing to the Seattle City Council. I interviewed Wing several times and was impressed by his motivation and qualification to enter public life, an inspiration to me personally and racial minority citizens in general. I saw his election as a breakthrough for racial minorities wanting to enter public life.

– Bruce Y. Dong
Celebrating Year of the Dragon

Although dragons are sometimes depicted as adversaries of mankind, dragons in Asian culture represent good fortune, power and majesty. In the Chinese zodiac, for instance, it is revered as the highest-ranking animal in the Chinese animal hierarchy and is the only mythological animal represented out of the 12 animals.


Characteristics of people born in Year of the Dragon: brave, honest, passionate, confident, generous, enthusiastic, and quick-tempered.

Dragons are free spirits that prefer to live by their own rules. They are ambitious and driven, colorful and flamboyant. They are generous in helping others but have a strong sense of self-sufficiency and rarely ask others for help. They like working alone and are self-assured and fearless in the face of challenges.

Famous dragons: Al Pacino, Orlando Bloom, Reese Witherspoon, John Lennon, Sandra Bullock, Jeremy Lin, and Bruce Lee.

FESTIVITIES AT THE WING

Lunar New Year Day was on January 23rd this year, and The Wing celebrated with an opening celebration on Saturday, January 21st. That day, we were pleased to welcome a record 1500 brave visitors who overcame melting snow and slush to take part in our festivities! It was followed by another record-breaking Saturday at the annual neighborhood Lunar New Year festival. A big thank you to all who came and celebrated with us!

Lunar New Year at The Wing

If you haven’t had a chance to come yet, it’s not too late. Through the end of March, The Wing is still featuring:

- Daily Lunar New Year tours – our historic hotel and neighborhood tours with a special Lunar New Year twist.
- Kids Scavenger Hunt – explore The Wing to find all 12 horoscope animals’ prints and win a prize!
- Year of the Dragon Coloring Contest - COLOR TO WIN! Anyone can submit an entry but must be 12 and under to be eligible for judging. To download the coloring contest, visit www.wingluke.org/2012newyear.

FESTIVITIES AT HOME

A perfect way to start off 2012 in your kitchen, the following recipe is from the award-winning cookbook, Stir-Frying to the Sky’s Edge, by Grace Young. Grace is also included in our From Fields to Family exhibit.

Stir-Frying to the Sky’s Edge, winner of the James Beard Foundation’s Best International Cookbook Award, is a comprehensive guide to the art of stir-frying. Filled with a wealth of instruction, cultural history, personal experiences and hard-earned advice, this is the first and only Chinese cookbook to describe the optimal approaches for stir-frying meat poultry, fish, shellfish, vegetables, rice and noodles.

A big thank you to author Grace Young for hand-picking this recipe and letting us feature it. The Stir-Frying to the Sky’s Edge cookbook is available for purchase at The Wing’s Marketplace. Great for novice and experienced cooks alike!

Stir-fried Sugar Snaps with Shiitake Mushrooms

Young sugar snaps are perfect for stir-frying because the fast cooking accentuates their natural sweetness and crisp delicacy. Mushrooms grow quickly and are a popular dish for their auspicious meaning of swift prosperity for Chinese New Year.

1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon chicken broth
1 tablespoon Shao Hsing rice wine or dry sherry
2 teaspoons soy sauce
3 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil
1 tablespoon minced ginger
8 medium fresh shiitake, stems removed and caps quartered (about 4 ounces)
8 ounces sugar snap peas, strings removed (about 2 1/2 cups)
1/2 teaspoon salt

1. In a small bowl combine 1/4 cup of the broth, rice wine, and soy sauce.
2. Heat a 14-inch flat-bottomed wok over high heat until a bead of water vaporizes within 1 to 2 seconds of contact. Swirl in 2 tablespoons of the oil, add the ginger, and stir-fry 10 seconds or until the ginger is fragrant. Add the mushrooms and stir-fry 30 seconds or until they have absorbed all the oil. Swirl the broth mixture into the wok, cover, and cook 30 seconds to 1 minute or until about only about 1 tablespoon of broth remains. Swirl in the remaining 1 tablespoon oil, add the sugar snaps, sprinkle on the salt, and stir-fry 1 minute or until the sugar snaps are bright green. Swirl the remaining 1 tablespoon broth into the wok, and stir-fry 30 seconds to 1 minute or until the sugar snaps are just crisp-tender. Serves 4 as a vegetable side dish.
Supporter Spotlight: In Our Community

Kathleen O’Connor

Passions, like stories, are meant to be shared. Kathleen O’Connor, a Gallery Supporter donor at The Wing, has plenty of both, and she’s not afraid to share them with others. The Museum is one of her passions, and she brought fellow members of The Rainier Club’s Literary Committee on our Bitter and Sweet Tour, the official tour for the best-selling novel, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. Over twenty people came and for about half the group, it was their first time visiting the Chinatown International District.

In a recent note, Kathleen tells us exactly what The Wing means to her:

I keep thinking why I love Wing Luke Museum so much. What I love about it— it fits my Irish heritage. It’s a scrappy/feisty museum with a big heart. The love of the cultures is palpable. And the honor and love of what all these many immigrants had to do to come here, endure here, make it here, and finally call home here despite how they were treated. [Learning about] my Irish heritage and all the NINA signs (No Irish Need Apply) makes me incredibly sensitive to what other brave immigrants endured— when we had funny names and a strange religion (Catholic) and were poor as beggars, even though we shared the same skin color.

I had hesitated to use the term ‘scrappy’ before, because I did not want to diminish the work of The Wing. But that is what The Wing is— a gracious, insistent line in the sand: “These are my peoples. They deserve our honor.”

So, there. That’s what I really think! I hope those words do not offend you. You have my complete and total respect for what you do! Keep telling your stories.

Thank you for your enthusiastic and heartfelt support of the Museum, Kathleen!

Special Thanks To Our 2011 Contributors

With great appreciation, The Wing acknowledges the following supporters for calendar year 2011. Thank you for making sure that Asian Pacific American stories are heard, remembered, and brought to life. (*Indicates Charter Member).
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Bring good luck into your home with Hello Kitty Lunar New Year and Hello Kitty Year of the Dragon figures. The Sanrio goodness doesn't stop there! Send secret notes with Momiji + Hello Kitty hand-painted resin message dolls. Turn them upside down to reveal a tiny folded card.

EXCITING NEWS!
MUST-HAVE ITEMS @ THE MARKETPLACE!!!!

Still not having enough fun? Relive your button mashing, party gaming moments with arcade-themed prints by Enfu (Ken Taya) that depict games as sites where identity and play intersect.

Join us for all the excitement happening at The Marketplace.

Also, from April 1st – April 4th The Marketplace will be closed to the public for our annual inventory. We apologize for any inconveniences.