

# 《萬古江河》作者許倬雲

## 在匹茨堡與讀者見面



三月十一日星期六下午,《萬古江河》作者許倬雲在匹茨堡大學與讀者舉行了見面會。

許倬雲是一位國際著名歷史學家、台灣中央研究院院士。他學貫中西歷史、識跨不同學科。許倬雲不但在中國文化史、社會史、和中國上古史等領域有精深造詣,同時也嫺熟西方歷史,更善於運用社會科學的理論和方法治史。他把嚴謹、精深的學術內容,能闡釋的舉重若輕,又能敘述的深入淺出。他的作品有《萬古江河——中國歷史文化的轉折與開展》、《從歷史看人物》、《從歷史看管理》、《江渚侯潮汐(一、二)》、《倚杖聽江聲(全二冊)》、《中國古代文化的特質》、中國考古學的跨世紀反思》、《求古編》、《系統視野與宇宙人生》、《尋路集》、《中國歷史論文集》、《西周史》等等。

《萬古江河——中國歷史文化的轉折與開展》是許倬雲畢生智慧的結晶,也是他對中國文化發展問題的創新詮釋。該書以江河流域的擴大比喻文化的進展,從中國文化發軔的地理空間開始談起,論及史前時期中國文化的多元發展與分合,然後再細述中國文化在不斷的衝突與融合中,一步步擴大進入世界體系的歷程。最後,全書以中國文化面對近代西方資本主義帝國壓力下的「百年蹣跚」為結束。《萬古江河》近 27 萬言,涉及的內容極為豐富,有民俗生活、思想信仰、文學藝術、經濟社會的演變、科學技術的發展、文化的交流互動等,字裡行間既有高空鳥瞰式的宏觀洞見,又有具體日常生活的細微描寫。更重要的是,該書不但擺脫了中國文化本位主義,也著重於庶民觀點及大區域文化的比較研究,每每以全球文化的高視點,來詮釋多元且複雜的中國文化發展歷程。其視野之開闊、思路之寬廣,實為相關著作中所僅見。

許倬雲耗時三年完成的這部大著作,雖是以精深學術為底子,但作者的文字風格極為暢達,也不直接引用史料原文,因此該書已跨越了歷史專業讀者群的範圍,非常適合一般讀者閱讀。作者在書中闡釋了上百個一般讀者想知道,但又不曉得到哪裡去問的文化議題,例如:台灣為什麼晚至近代才出現在中國歷史上、中古的老百姓吃些什麼、《金瓶梅》為什麼是有反叛精神的創作、長江文化和黃河文化有何差異、孔子的「仁」到底是什麼意思、中國為什麼沒有出現代西方的工業化……等。一如作者在自序中所言:「今日的讀者不同於舊時,在這平民的時代,大率受過高中教育以上者,都可能對歷史有興趣。」——而該書,即是為這一代中國人所撰寫的歷史。對一位炎黃子孫來說,《萬古江河》是一部不可多得的好讀物!

傅瀟

## Luck Kosoladolkitt's Contribution to the Asian Community in Pittsburgh

Luck Kosoladolkitt is from Thailand. She came to Pittsburgh University as a graduate student over 30 years ago. After the school, she thought as an Asian she should share her culture with the American and show Pittsburgh community her contributions. That's how she has gotten into some Asian activities ever since. By doing that, she has gotten to know more other Asian groups in Pittsburgh as well. She has learned about Asian American Heritage group that consists of members from 11 Asian countries. This group provides Outstanding Student Award every year in May. After the ceremony, Asian American Heritage group has also had exhibits and performances in Heinz History Center for the past 20 years. Through this group activity, Luck came to known one of the leaders of Asian Women Institute that has been established for over 26 years in Pittsburgh. Currently, Luck is the President of AWI. Luck is also the President of the Thai Association.

However, Luck thinks that Asian philosophy is inclusion not isolation. Therefore, Luck has involving with activities with people from Asia. Luck has been helping Organization of Chinese American for five years. Luck is also helping to build a Thai Room in the Cathedral of Learning at Pittsburgh University. Luck does fun raising for American students to go to China, Thailand or Taiwan to study etc. Luck thinks in order to let

American and Asian to learn from each other's culture has to start from a very early age. Luck thinks the best time to educate the youngsters is during their high school years. That's why she is also helping Upper St. Clair High School to establish a cultural exchanging program between Thailand and the United States. This year she is



bringing 40 students and teachers from Thailand to come, visit and teach from April 19 to May 21. They will be here in Pittsburgh for five weeks and they'll visit six universities around Pittsburgh to prepare their future studies.

At the Phipp Conservatory, they are creating a Thai Rainforest. Luck has invited Thai architect to work with American architect on the project to create a Thai Rainforest but not just typical rainforest of other countries. Luck also coordinate two persons of the Phipp Conservatory to go and visit Thailand to see the rainforest themselves. Luck said this project is not on-

ly has plants and the flowers. Phipp Conservatory is also creating a new sanctuary for two years for Thai culture, lecture and performances. In May 12, there will be a "Thai Night" event taken place at Upper St. Clair High School for a fund raising to help teachers and students from the United States to be able to go and visit Thailand too.

The Thai Room project in the Cathedral of Learning is also taken shape by Luck's help. Luck said she's involving in fund raising at the last December. A Thai architect had come from Thailand to design the Thai Room. It'll cost around \$400,000 to finish the project according to the architect. It will be just like the way Japanese Room was done. The Thai Room is also going to be built in Thailand and reassemble here in the United States. Luck is again planing to go back to Thailand for a fun raising effort soon this year.

Luck thinks all Asian are too scattered. Indians would do their own things, Thai and Chinese would also do their own activities because Asian in Pittsburgh has no center point. Until this May there's a Asian Film Festival has been organized by an Indian Harish Saluja. Harish even created a data bank for Asian activities so that people would be easy to know what's Asian activities are happening in Pittsburgh. Also there's a group called Pacific Asian American Young Professional Alliance (PAAYPA) is also help bringing all Asian groups together.



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**CONTACT:** If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:

Luck Kosoladolkitt	412-221-3933	Mei Hwang	724-941-1687
Karen Yee	412-833-2339	Dorothy Lee Green	412-257-7533
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