

passager

"And now in age I bud again..." —George Herbert

CONTACT:

Saralyn Lyons
Managing Editor
editors@passagerbooks.com
410-837-6047

For Immediate Release

NEW MEMOIR DETAILS CHINESE-AMERICAN'S STRUGGLES DURING 20 TURBULENT YEARS IN COMMUNIST CHINA

Beyond Lowu Bridge, a new memoir published by Passager Books, chronicles Roy Cheng Tsung's 20 years in Communist China, after growing up as a typical American boy in New York City. It is a gripping story that brings to light the way we make choices that affect not only our lives but the lives of those we love.

For a long time, Tsung was hesitant to tell his story. "I still had friends and relatives in China," he says, "and although Post-Mao China seemed to be better, the country was (and still is) under Communist rule."

According to Passager Books co-publisher Mary Azrael, "At a time when many Chinese were fleeing China, Roy's father took his family back in the hopes of giving his son a better future. This is a story by an American that has not been told."

University of Sussex reviewer Genevieve Dean says *Beyond Lowu Bridge* is "for anyone interested in this period of modern Chinese history, for anyone who has ever tried to adapt to a different social environment. Roy Tsung tries to repress his American side, only to find that, as a 'returned overseas Chinese,' he is not Chinese enough in the eyes of the political authorities nor, consequently, anywhere in the tightly-controlled Chinese society."

Born in New York City in 1941, Roy Cheng Tsung went with his parents to Beijing in 1953. In 1976 he returned to the U.S. with his mother. He worked for Stanford University Medical Center for thirty years implementing information systems projects. He was a translator and interpreter.

Beyond Lowu Bridge, by Roy Cheng Tsung
Passager Books, 2014, \$20.00
www.PassagerBooks.com

Passager Books is dedicated to bringing attention to older writers, to encouraging the imagination throughout life, and to creating beautiful and welcoming publications. Its literary journal, *Passager*, founded in 1990, has featured work by nearly 1000 poets, fiction writers and memoirists, many in their 80s and 90s. *Beyond Lowu Bridge* is the twelfth book published by Passager Books.



Praise for *Beyond Lowu Bridge*:

"[*Beyond Lowu Bridge* is] a fascinating glimpse of life in Beijing in the shadow of Mao and the fanatical Red guards during a tumultuous and dangerous period."

– Jack Swenson, author of *Zoo Story*

"The climax of Roy Cheng Tsung's sensitive memoir made me eager to race ahead and complete his round trip between countries, cultures, and political upheavals that changed his world, and ours."

– Douglas Murray, President Emeritus, Lingnan Foundation

"This is a book for anyone interested in this period of modern Chinese history, for anyone who has ever tried to adapt to a different social environment and, indeed, for anyone interested in the human condition."

– Genevieve Dean, University of Sussex

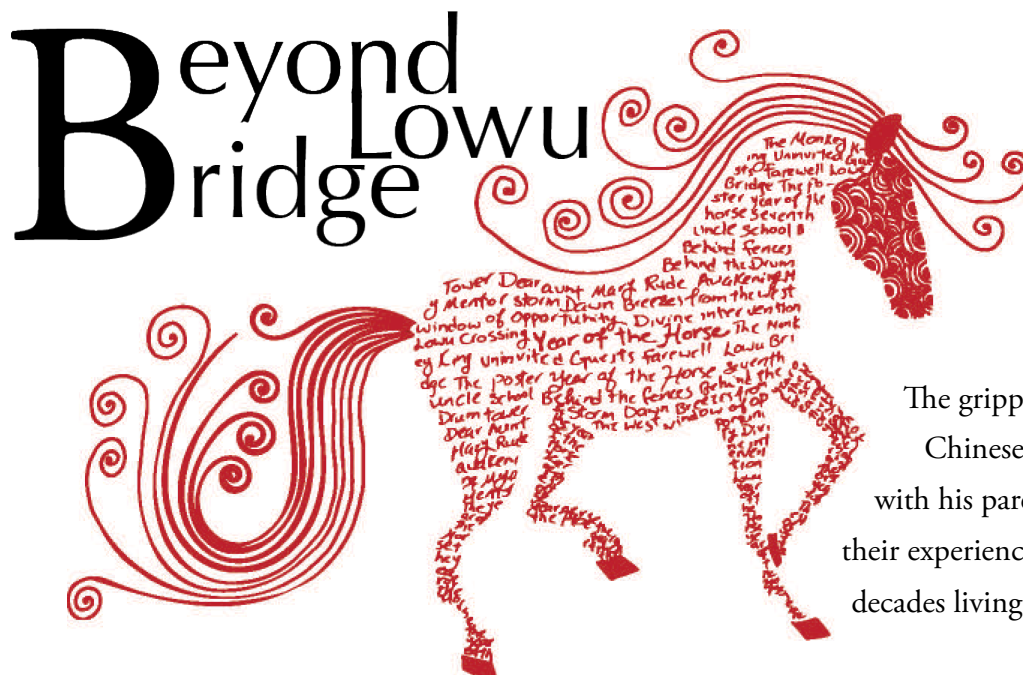
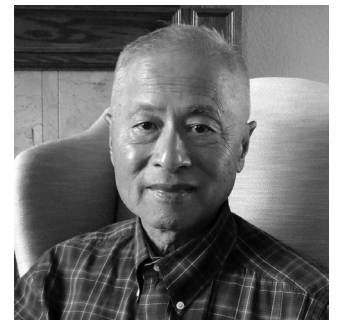
"A story of humanity and decency in the face of dehumanizing policies and imperatives for self-preservation."

– Thomas Fingar,

Oksenberg-Rohlen Distinguished Fellow, Stanford University

About Roy Cheng Tsung:

Born in New York City in 1941, Roy Cheng Tsung went with his parents to Beijing in 1953. In 1976 he returned to the U.S. with his mother. He worked for Stanford University Medical Center for thirty years implementing information systems projects. He was a translator and interpreter.



The gripping memoir of a Chinese-American boy's return with his parents to China and their experiences during two decades living under Mao.

Passager Books is a press dedicated to promoting the work of authors over the age of fifty.

Beyond Lowu Bridge

The gripping memoir of a Chinese-American boy's return with his parents to China and their experiences during two decades living under Mao.

About Roy Cheng Tsung:

Born in New York City in 1941, Roy Cheng Tsung went with his parents to Beijing in 1953. In 1976 he returned to the U.S. with his mother. He worked for Stanford University Medical Center for thirty years implementing information systems projects. He was a translator and interpreter.



Roy, on the process of writing *Beyond Lowu Bridge*:

"It was in May 1974 when I was on Lowu Bridge that a tiny germ of an idea came to my mind.

At that time, I didn't know what it was exactly, although I had a vague feeling that I had a story to tell. I wrote little notes and short accounts that read like a ledger. I was a complete novice, and I lacked the skills. Soon I shelved the project.

"It was in 1996 when I began to write in earnest. I was hesitant at first to tell my story, because I still had friends and relatives in China. Although Post-Mao China seemed to be better, the country was still under communist rule. But by then, I had two young daughters and was given a new and important purpose of writing my book. Born and raised in sunny California, my daughters had no idea of what it was like for their grandmother and father to live in totalitarian China. I wanted them to understand that freedom came with sacrifice.

"One of the biggest challenges occurred when I wrote the chapter about my father's untimely death. The memories were so painful for me that I laid down my pen for months. Eventually, I picked up my pen again and finished my book. I still recall that moment in the middle of the night when I typed the words "The End." I felt so emotional, and I felt a great sense of achievement. I had overcome an enormous mental weight, and it felt great. The writing of my story was a rewarding journey of discovery. I have a great deal to be thankful for.

And I thank the Lord."

About Passager Books:

Passager Books is a press dedicated to promoting the work of authors over the age of fifty. Passager Books was started in 2005 and has published two anthologies, three full-length books of poetry, and six chapbooks. For more information about Passager, visit www.PassagerBooks.com, or email us at Editors@PassagerBooks.com.

