



## PPSEAWA – USA, N.Y. Chapter

Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association of the USA, Inc.  
CONSULTATIVE STATUS CATEGORY II WITH THE UNITED NATIONS  
Accredited to the United Nations in association with Department of Public Information

Dear Members and Friends,

**Happy New Year. May the New Year bring good health, love and prosperity to you!**

**Our 2015 programs will kick-off with Dr. Jakob Soong's talk about opera,  
for both opera fans and people who are afraid of opera.**

Please attend the February Program  
on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 3:30-5:30 PM  
at Church Center for the United Nations  
1st Ave and 44th Street, New York, NY 10017 (entrance on 44th Street)

### Introduction to "Opera" from a non-music major.



**Dr. Jakob Soong**

I would like to share the pleasure of enjoying the opera performance and the listening experience. The journey starts from answering the question, what is opera? Following the understanding and the appreciating of this form of the artistic expression, the very earliest opera performance can be traced back to ancient Greece. The earliest universally accepted direct ancestors of opera appeared in 16th-century Italy. At that time, the production of the opera La Dafne was presented in Florence in 1598.

Through the time-line of composers and their represented masterpieces we have come to find the revelation of the various evolutions of this art form from "baroque" to "classical" and then turning into "romanticism" and the rise of "Verismo," "Nationalism," and finally landing in the twentieth century era. Good preparation in understanding opera and knowing how to enjoy the performances, plus reviewing select list of operas and lyrics, will help one to walk through the happy journey of the enjoyment of many forms of opera.

Jakob Soong was born in Shanghai, China, educated in Taiwan with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering. Dr. Soong continued his studies in the US at the University of Utah and there obtained a Ph.D. degree in Materials Science and Engineering. Dr. Soong worked in the electro ceramics industry in materials research and development and components manufacturing for many years. He spent four years teaching both Materials Science as well as Opera Appreciation in a university in Taiwan before his retirement. Dr. Soong enjoys classical music, photography, reading in both English & Chinese. swimming, playing basketball, tennis, bridge and is an absolute terrible golfer.

*Refreshments will be served allowing time for chatting with old friends and making new ones.*

**Please Mark Your Calendar for PPSEAWA-NY Lunar New Year Celebration**

**Friday, March 6, 5:30-8:30pm**

**Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York**

1 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017

#### **RSVP**

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