

NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

May 9, 2008

Featuring
Michelle Wingshan Kwan

“Success is not the key to happiness.
Happiness is the key to success. If you love
what you are doing, you will be successful.”

- A Albert Schweitzer Quote

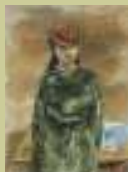
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Asian Paintings



**The Great Wave
Off Kanagawa**

By:
Katsushika Hokusai



I Was Just Married

By:
Yasuo Kuniyoshi

May Dates to Remember:

- 1 - National Day of Prayer (United States)
- 1 - Ascension Day (Christian)
- 2 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 5 - Cinco De Mayo (Mexico, United States)
- 11 - Mother's Day
- 11 - Whitt Sunday
- 12 - Native American Rights Day (United States)
- 17 - Armed Forces Day (United States)
- 23 - Declaration of the Bab Day
- 24 - International Jazz Day
- 24 - Victoria Day (Canada)
- 26 - Memorial Day (Observed)

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Michelle Kwan

Michelle Wingshan Kwan (1980 -) Asian American Olympic Figure Skater

Michelle Wingshan Kwan was born in Torrance, California, on July 7, 1980 to Danny and Estella Kwan. Michelle's parents immigrated from Hong Kong, China before she was born. As a child, Michelle took an interest in figure skating and began serious training at the age of eight. Michelle has two older siblings, a brother named Ron and a sister named Karen. Ron was an ice hockey player, and Karen was a figure skater. Because their children needed training and coaches to further their careers, Michelle's parents worked two jobs each. When Michelle was ten her family was having money problems and could no longer afford the children's coaches and rink time. The family was offered financial assistance by a fellow member of the Los Angeles Figure Skating Club that allowed them to train at the Ice Castle International Training Center in Lake Arrowhead, California. While training, Michelle attended public school until she was thirteen when she began home schooling. She graduated in 1998 from Rim of the World High School, and attended UCLA for one year.

Michelle competed in the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan and won the silver medal. She has won five World Championships (1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2003). She has won nine United States Figure Skating Championships (1996, 1998 – 2005), eight consecutive U. S. Championships (1998 – 2005), and twelve consecutive U. S. Championship medals (1994 – 2005). She is the only woman in figure skating history to reclaim the World title three times (1998, 2000, 2003). She won the bronze medal in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. In 2005, Michelle hoped to enter the 2006 Turin, Italy Olympics, but due to hip and abdominal injuries she had to withdraw from the 2006 Olympic team.

Michelle's family opened the East West Ice Palace in Artesia, California in 2005. In August of 2006, Michelle decided to undergo an elective surgery to repair a torn labrum in her right hip. Amid rumors of retirement, Michelle told the Associated Press in October of 2007 that she would decide in 2009 if she plans to compete in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. In the mean time, Michelle dined with U. S. President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao during President Jintao's 2006 state visit to the United States. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, named Michelle as a public diplomacy ambassador. In this non-salaried position, she will travel widely and speak to young people and sports enthusiasts about American values. Her first trip as ambassador was to China from January 17 – January 25, 2007. She is also an author having written an autobiography, *Heart of a Champion*, at seventeen, and an inspirational book for kids titled, *The Winning Attitude: What it Takes to be a Champion*.

Source: (www.wikipedia.com)

Did you know?

Mother's Day began in the United States close to 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community. She called it "Mother's Work Day," because she believed that mothers would best advocate the cause. In 1905, when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. She lobbied the government to recognize the holiday, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill that made Mother's Day a national holiday. Mother's Day is this Sunday, May 11, 2008. Source: (www.festivals.tajonline.com)