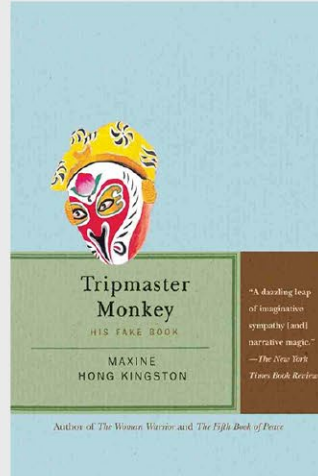
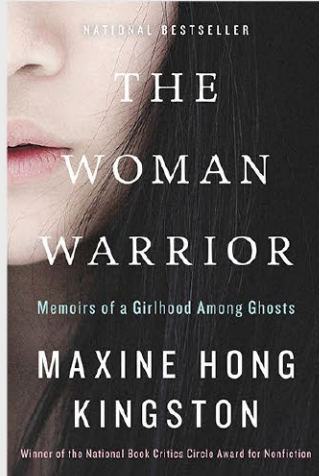
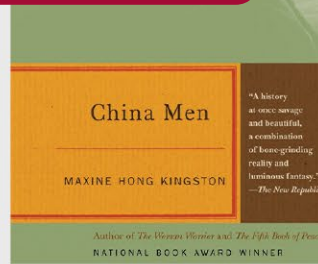
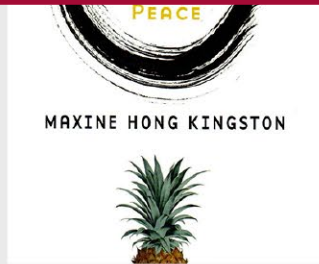




Photo: Maryanne Teng Hoggath



An Evening with MAXINE HONG KINGSTON

THE SUBIR AND MALINI CHOWDHURY FOUNDATION
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

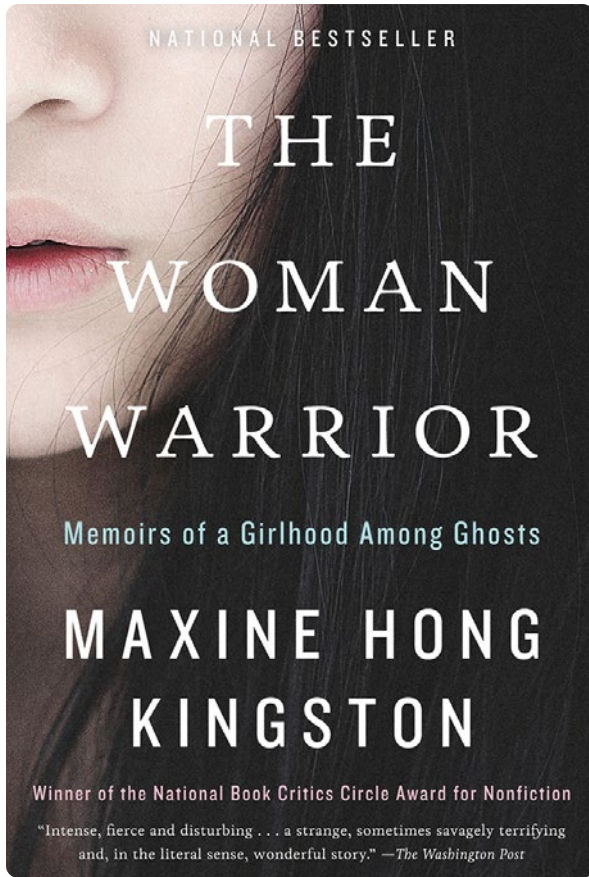
Monday, November 13, 2023
Bovard Auditorium
University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Maxine Hong Kingston is a groundbreaking and award-winning author. She will be in conversation with author and USC professor David Ulin.

“I had to tell the stories, especially the stories of crossing borders against the law. And so I made up a new way of storytelling, so that you can’t tell whether I’m writing fiction or nonfiction.”—Maxine Hong Kingston on *PBS News Hour* in 2019

“[H]er characters weren’t merely trying to survive in this harsh, difficult world but to remake it through their fantasies and dreams. These characters emerged from their realist settings aching for impossible things, like peace, or world-changing art, or having all the friends in your lifetime in the same room at once, or Chinese parents and their American kids simply seeing eye to eye.”—Hua Hsu, profiling Maxine Hong Kingston in *The New Yorker* in 2020



MAXINE HONG KINGSTON

“*The Woman Warrior* changed literary culture... *The Woman Warrior* changed American culture.”—*The New Yorker*

Maxine Hong Kingston is an influential memoirist, fiction writer, and poet best known for her groundbreaking 1976 book *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*.

Kingston was born in Stockton, California, in 1940 to Chinese immigrant parents, and studied English at UC Berkeley.

Kingston’s books blur the lines between fiction and nonfiction. In a 2020 *New Yorker* profile of Kingston, Hua Hsu wrote, “Bookstores labelled [*The Woman Warrior*] fiction, nonfiction, sociology, anthropology, biography, women’s literature, Chinese literature, and Asian literature. In a letter to the Chinese-American writer Shawn Wong, in 1976, Kingston wrote, ‘This confusion really makes me feel good.’”

The Woman Warrior became canonical for its groundbreaking representation of a first-generation Chinese American perspective and was one of the most-taught contemporary novels in U.S. colleges for decades. Kingston has been awarded the National Medal of Arts (by President Barack Obama), the National Endowment for the Humanities’ National Humanities Medal (by President Bill Clinton), the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Award in Literature, the National Book Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the title Living Treasure of Hawaii. (She lived in Hawai’i for many years.)

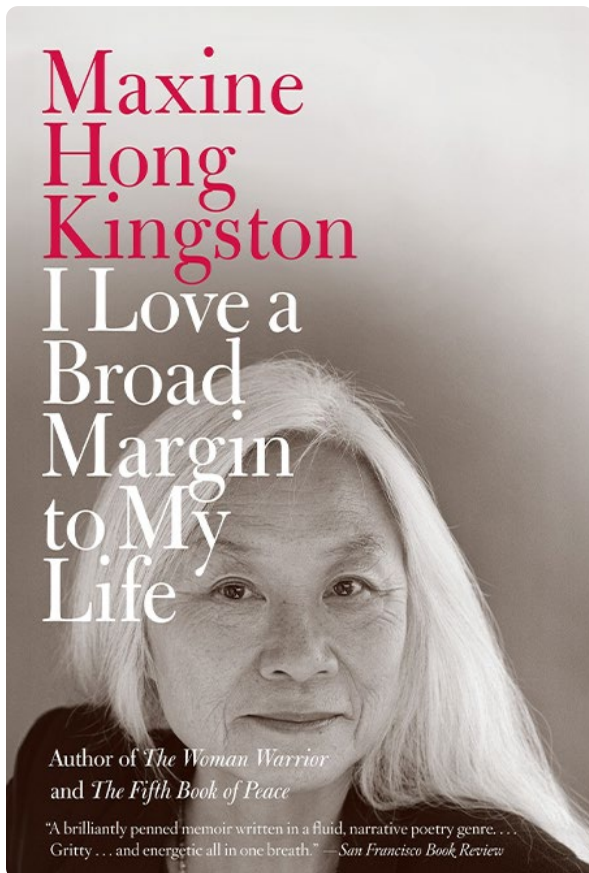
In addition to her own writing, Kingston has also offered a long-running series of writing workshops for veterans. A longtime antiwar activist, Kingston was arrested while protesting against the Iraq War in 2003.

Kingston is a professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, and lives in Oakland, California.

BOOKS BY MAXINE HONG KINGSTON

AS AUTHOR

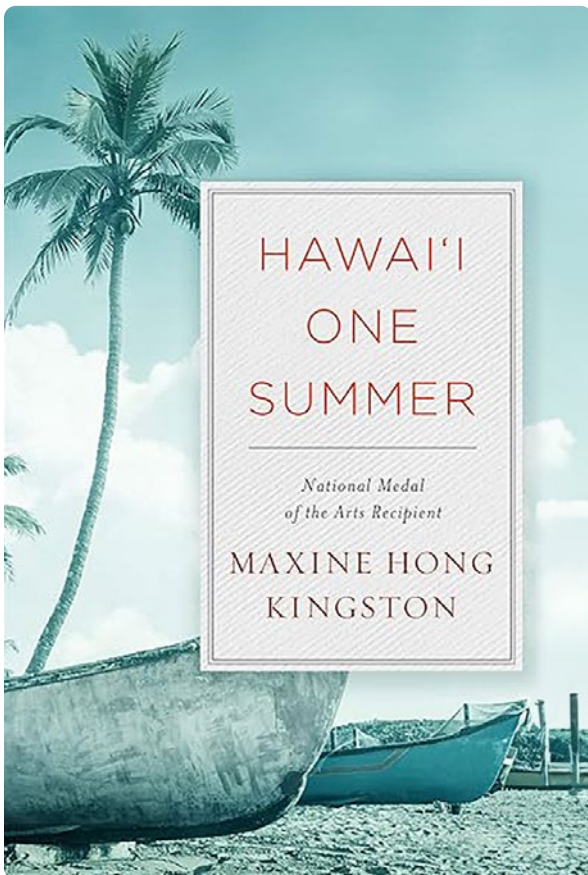
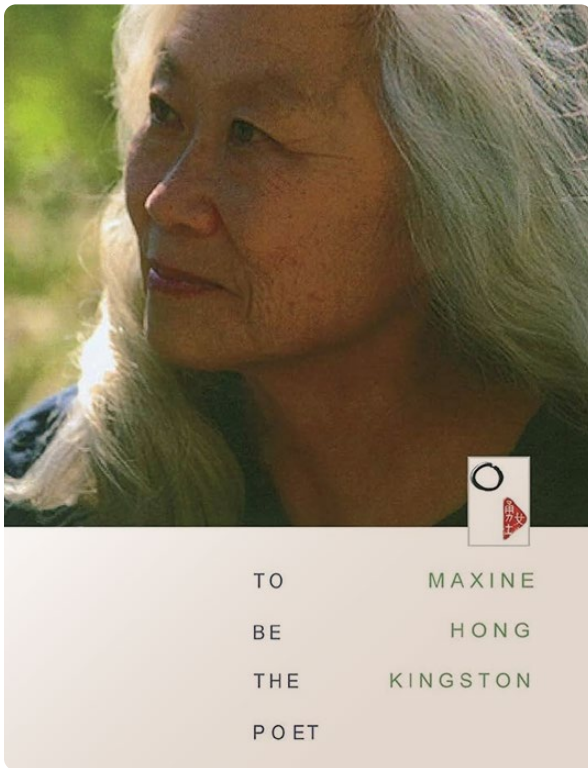
- 🕒 *I Love a Broad Margin to My Life* (2011)
- 🕒 *The Fifth Book of Peace* (2003)
- 🕒 *To Be the Poet* (2002)
- 🕒 *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book* (1989)
- 🕒 *Through the Black Curtain* (1987)
- 🕒 *Hawai’i One Summer* (1987)
- 🕒 *China Men* (1980)—National Book Award winner
- 🕒 *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* (1976)—National Book Critics Circle Award winner



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AS EDITOR

Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace (2006), an anthology of works by participants in the writing workshops Kingston has led for veterans

INFLUENCES

Maxine Hong Kingston has mentioned these writers as having influenced her approach to both literature and gender:

- ◉ Walt Whitman
- ◉ William Carlos Williams
- ◉ Virginia Woolf

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The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Foundation Distinguished Speakers Series brings internationally renowned authors to USC. The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Foundation exists to advance education and to improve quality of life for everyone.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- ◉ Why was *The Woman Warrior* groundbreaking?
- ◉ How did Maxine Hong Kingston change literary culture?
- ◉ Why does Kingston's work blur the lines between fiction and nonfiction?
- ◉ Why has Kingston been compelled to work with veterans and engage in activism to stop wars? Is there a relationship between her literature and her activism?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT THESE VISIONS AND VOICES EVENTS:

- ◉ [12/2/23 *The Upcycled Self: An Evening with Black Thought from The Roots*](#)
- ◉ [3/21/24 *About Face: Women, War, and Re-Envisioning Troy*](#)
- ◉ [4/3/24 *Another Beautiful Country: Chinese American Artists in Cross-Cultural Conversation*](#)
- ◉ [4/3/24 *Visualizing Asian American L.A.: A Workshop on Digitally Exhibiting Art and Archival Materials*](#)
- ◉ [4/4/24 *Envisioning Empathy through Graphic Memoir—An Afternoon with Alison Bechdel*](#)



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DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

CHRISTINA SNIDER of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

- Maxine Hong Kingston, [*The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*](#) (New York: Knopf, 1982).
- Maxine Hong Kingston, [*To Be the Poet*](#) (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002).
- Maxine Hong Kingston, [*I Love a Broad Margin to My Life*](#) (New York: Knopf, 2011).
- Maxine Hong Kingston, [*The Fifth Book of Peace*](#) (New York: Knopf, 2003).
- Ellen D. Wu, [*The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority*](#) (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 2014).
- Judy Yung, Gordon H. Chang, and H. Mark. Lai, [*Chinese American Voices from the Gold Rush to the Present*](#) (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2006).

DATABASES

- [China, America and the Pacific](#)
- [China and the Modern World](#)
- [China Research Gateway \(CRG\)](#)
- [Contemporary China Series](#) (Gale Virtual Reference Library)

JOURNAL

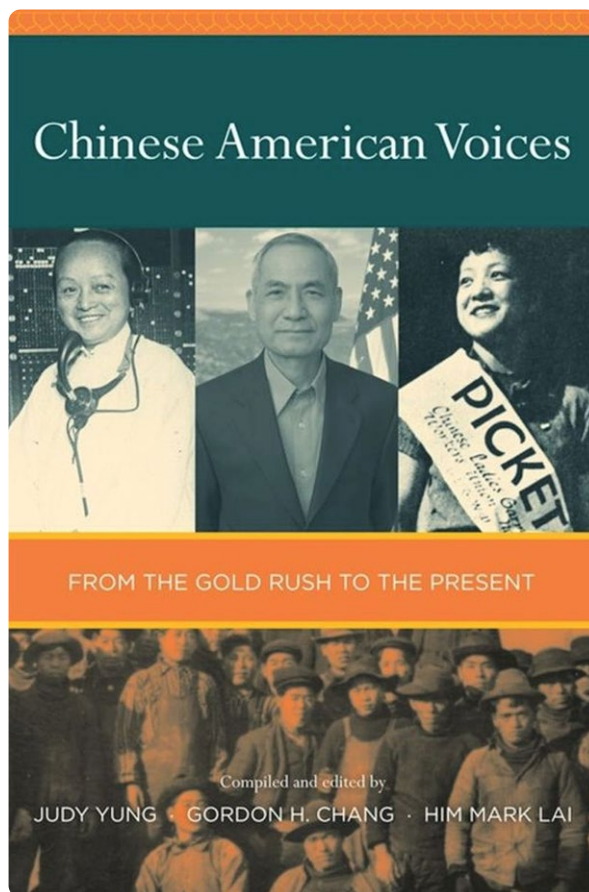
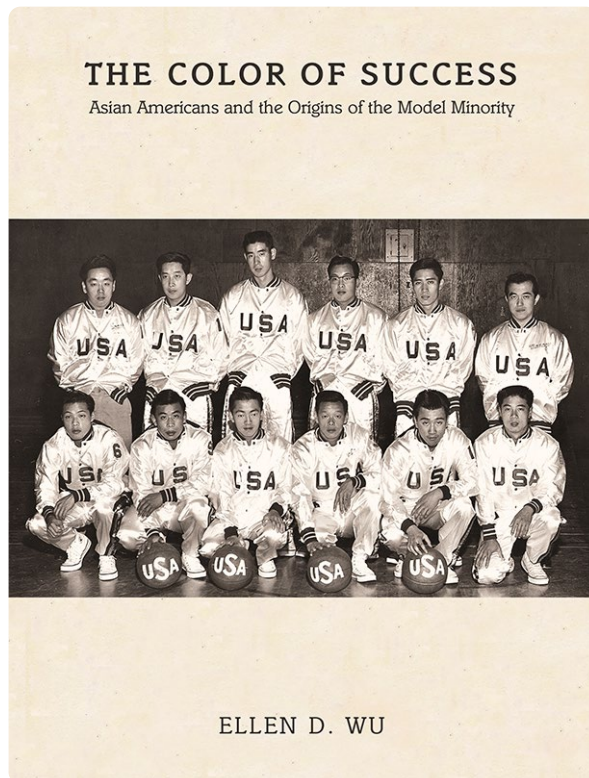
- [Chinese American Forum](#)

STREAMING VIDEO

- [Becoming American: The Chinese Experience](#) (PBS, 2003).
- [Maxine Hong Kingston: Talking Story](#) (KQED/American Archive of Public Broadcasting, 1990)
- [The Stories of Maxine Hong Kingston](#) (Films on Demand, 1990).

USC LIBRARIES RESEARCH GUIDE

- [China Documentary Films in Streaming](#)



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