

CLAREMONT RESIDENT

# Literary accomplishment

## Short story to appear in women's journal

By Wes Woods II  
Staff Writer

Claremont resident Vanessa Hua's short story "Just Like Us" was selected to be published in the summer issue of CALYX, A Journal of Art and Literature by Women.

CALYX is celebrating its 36th year as a feminist literary journal.

Hua, 37, is a freelance writer and editor married to husband Marc Puich with twin sons, Tobias and Luka Puich.

She attended UC Riverside from 2007 to 2009 and received an MFA in creative writing and writing for the performing arts.

She attended Stanford University from 1993 to 1997 and received a bachelor's in English in 1996 and a master's in communications in 1997.

Hua also worked as a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Hartford Courant after she started her career at the Los Angeles Times.

**Question: What does it mean to you to be published in CALYX?**

**Answer:** I'm thrilled that to be published alongside talented writers such as Sandra Cisneros, and happy that this short story, which I began in writing in 2006, found a home in such a beautiful journal with a rich history. I'm looking forward to reading with other Southern California authors at the Last Bookstore, on Sunday, Sept. 9, at 3 p.m.

**Q: What drew you to the city of Claremont and how long have you lived there?**

**A:** Before moving to Southern California, my husband and I lived in the Mission District of San Francisco, a neighborhood full of shops, restaurants, bookstores, and galleries we walked to from our condo. Likewise, Claremont has a cute downtown we

can walk to from our home, and the 5-C campus has amazing speakers, music performances, and galleries open to the public. We've lived here since the fall 2007.

**Q: What is your proudest moment or greatest accomplishment?**

**A:** As a journalist, I launched a campaign finance investigation that led to the resignation of the California Secretary of State, prompted two FBI investigations, and federal and state convictions of his fundraiser. As a writer, I've completed several drafts of my novel. As a mother, I survived the first year raising twins.

**Q: Where do you get your inspiration from?**

**A:** I have a passion for telling the untold story, for entering people's lives, shining a light to reveal the unexpected yet universal. I find inspiration everywhere, in my life, my relatives, friends, and in the news.

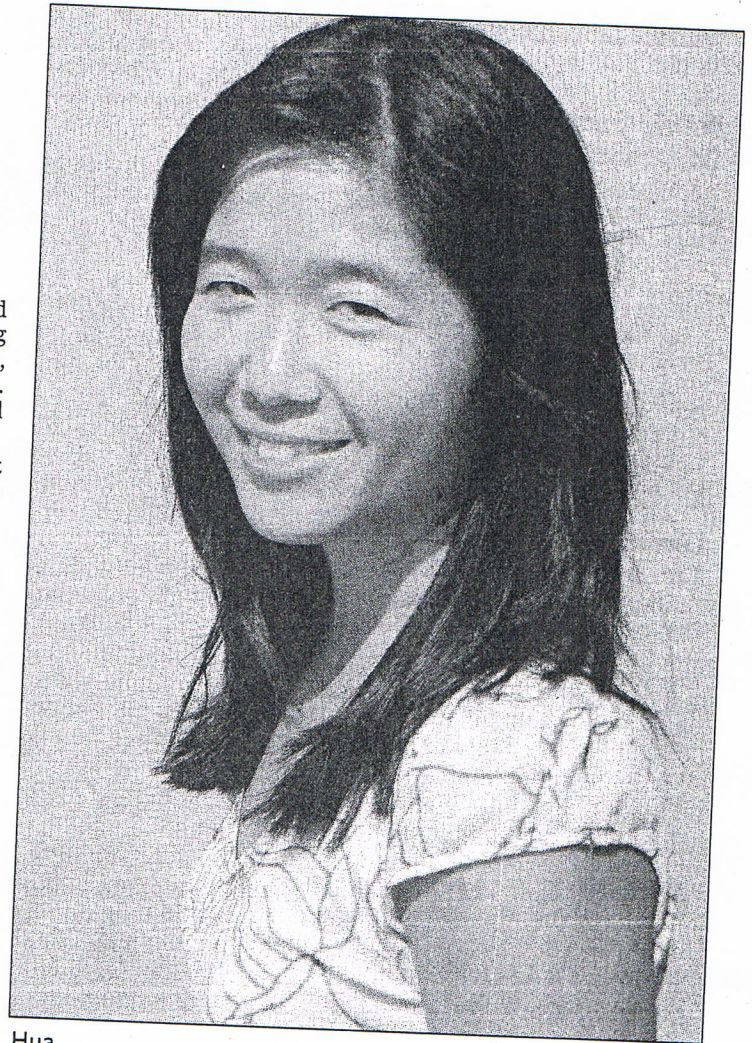
**Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?**

**A:** Working on another book, teaching creative writing, and writing articles and essays.

**Q: What was a major challenge or difficulty you had to overcome and how did you do it?**

**A:** Finding time to write in the difficult first year as a parent. In the early months, I was so sleep-deprived and stressed that I couldn't string together a sentence, let alone a paragraph. I've learned to be patient and forgiving of myself. I liken the process to my boys learning how to crawl. At first, they pushed their head into the carpet, moving only inches, leaving a trail of slobber, but eventually they raised their head and learned how to crawl, to walk — and now, how to run.

**Q: What do you consider to**



Hua

**be your mission in life, and how are you following it?**

**A:** I aim to explore, to write, to connect.

**Q: What are your favorite pastimes/hobbies?**

**A:** Hiking, running, cooking, dining out at ethnic dives

**Q: If you could only take three things to an island where you'd stay alone for one year, what would they be and why?**

**A:** 1) A journal, to write in. 2) "The Water Margin," a classic of Chinese literature, chronicling the adventures of ragtag bandits 3) knitting needles or a guitar, a new hobby to teach myself.

**Q: What drew you to writing and how did you get into it?**

**A:** My first stories were born of

the desire to grasp the mystery of my family. Immigrants leave behind their culture, language and history to make new stories in their adopted homeland. By writing fiction I have learned to interpret the world. In circling the truth, I invent another. For me, the magic of fiction comes not from faithful re-creation but from the distillation of people, events, and history into emotional truth.

**Q: Is there any question I didn't ask that you wished I would have?**

**A:** What are you reading? I'm re-reading "Revolutionary Road" by Richard Yates and Bel Canto, by Ann Patchett. I'm studying how to pull off an omniscient narrator.

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