

Cantonese Chinese Americans
(Chinatown's 40's-60's Generation's Untold Story of Struggles and Successes in Chinese America)

In 2012, I read a book entitled "Chinese America" written by Dr. Peter Kwong, a City University of New York Professor, and his wife Dr. Dusanka Miscevic. It is a contemporary book on the Chinese in America leading up to the present day in the 2000's time-frame illustrating how the Chinese have come a long way in a short time but the authors' emphasis was only on the accomplishments of the northern Mandarin speaking Chinese. It was disingenuous to the southern Cantonese speaking Chinese that the authors did not even consider their progress and achievements during this same time period. Our Cantonese Chinese generation of the 40--60's and the following ones were exceptional ones in producing a large number of successful individuals and success stories that came out of Chinatown and the greater New York metropolitan area in the professional, vocational, and business fields.

The authors adopted an intra class-dividing terminology "Uptown-Downtown Chinese" in referring to the Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese as two separate bipolar entities with the Mandarins being educated and successful; while: depicting the Cantonese as working-class immigrants in the restaurant, laundry & sweatshop businesses. That may have been the case in the 40's when the Mandarins had all the advantages while many of the Cantonese were struggling just to survive and many were serving in the US armed forces during WW II. The Mandarin Chinese were here in the USA serving as the Chinese Nationalist government diplomats to the US government and later the United Nations. In addition, there were many overseas Chinese students at American universities on government scholarships. These privileged overseas diplomat families and overseas students enjoyed the good life in the affluent neighborhoods & suburbs and received their education at some of the best schools in America. However, with hard work, their belief in education, and given the opportunity, the children of Cantonese Chinese began to level the professional playing field with the Mandarin Chinese in the 40-60's to the present day where no-one inquires about your Mandarin or Cantonese heritage when addressing Chinese Americans.

Since "Chinese America" is basically a contemporary book on the Chinese in America, there should not have been a differentiation between Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese in the professional ranks over the last four decades where any reference to Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese is meaningless.

We are now collectively recognized as Chinese Americans in America or more to the point--Americans. What were Dr. Kwong and Dr Miscevic's underlying motivation for creating a prejudicial bias mindset in the Chinese American community and sending their intra class-dividing terminology "Uptown- Downtown Chinese" to the general reading public?

Was it intentional or an oversight on the authors' part to ignore Cantonese Chinese accomplishments? Was it identity politics? The fact remains that "Chinese America" is an incomplete narrative of Chinese Americans in America without the equally comparable success stories of the Cantonese Chinese. As a honored "CUNY Distinguished Professor", it raises questions and reflects poorly on Professor Kwong's credibility and academic position as Director of Asian American Studies & Professor of Urban Affairs & Planning at Hunter College and Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center of CUNY.

A sidebar quote by the great influential African American educator of his time at Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington has helped me to keep life in perspective as our generation overcame many obstacles and as a result developed attributes such as mental toughness, decisiveness, and staying focused on being the best we can be in our everyday challenges.

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed".

Please find a Letter-Article to Dr. Kwong & Dr Miscevic on "Chinese America" with a compendium of constructive critical analyses and real life factual comments from interested individuals on "Chinese America" for the "Memories of Chinatown-NYC" and "New York Chinatown Oral History Project" websites.

Daniel (Danny) Lee, (3/22/13)

Chinese America

Dr. Peter Kwong, Ph.D. Columbia University Dr Dusanka Miscevic, Ph.D. Columbia University

Dear Dr. Kwong & Dr. Miscevic,

I had the pleasure of reading your book "**Chinese America**" and found it to be very informative; a fascinating history and current narrative of the Chinese in America; and one of the best books on the subject matter. For me, it was reliving parts of my professional life experiences in Silicon Valley, while on many business trips for Lockheed Martin on the west coast.

The parts of your book that was disturbing and alarming to me were the many references to the "**Uptown Chinese and the Downtown Chinese**". This terminology was used repeatedly throughout the book with derogatory innuendos about the Downtown Chinese which was most unfortunate. It was very clear to me during the reading of "*Chinese America*" that you had defined the northern Chinese who spoke Mandarin as the Uptown Chinese and the southern Chinese who spoke Cantonese as the Downtown Chinese. This notion of Uptown and Downtown Chinese will only serve to be disuniting of Chinese and Chinese Americans in the USA, creating an atmosphere of intra-racial bias within the Chinese community. It may lead to a scenario of initiating a subliminal environment for class distinction among ourselves which may be self-defeating since we are so few in numbers and only comprise 2--3% of the total USA population.

While I respectfully disagree with your concept of Uptown and Downtown Chinese which was mentioned more than 58 times in the book, I offer merit based "*vivid living memories*" & "*actual life experiences*" from the Chinatown era of the 40's-- 60's when our generation, children of southern Chinese immigrants, started to break out of the perceived Chinatown cultural barrier to counter your many negative assertions. Education was the catalyst and express lane into the professional world of mainstream America.

The following sample "quotes" are from "Chinese America" followed by my responses reflecting "**real life memory**" factors and the "**experienced it**" factors of that time period, in a fair and balanced manner. In your Introduction (page xv), the intent may be academically noble but it is also condescending and insulting to the many honest and hard working-class immigrants from southern China. This manner of stereotyping serves no useful constructive purpose to the unity and advancement of Chinese Americans here in the United States.

To quote, Page xv:

"The superbly educated, urbanized, English-speaking representatives of the upper stratum of Chinese society who avail themselves of this opportunity formed an Uptown Chinese community, at the opposite end of the social hierarchy from the working-class immigrants from rural southern China. The liberal 1965 immigration reform opened the door to a two-pronged migration of Chinese from both ends of the spectrum: the professional at the top, and the relatives of earlier immigrants at the bottom. The latter provided cheap labor for the services and declining industries, in particular garment manufacturing. Chinese America became a distinctly bipolar entity. The two groups, the Uptown and the Downtown Chinese have little in common. Their different experiences make classification under a single model of integration in America meaningless".

The aforementioned introductory paragraph was insightful enough to start my adrenalin flowing on the origin of this **Uptown Chinese and Downtown Chinese** concept, in that it is so asymptotically close (**same Han Chinese & written language**) and yet...so far apart (**same Han Chinese & written language but different spoken dialects**).

I would like to offer a few observations on the Uptown & Downtown Chinese concept based upon my experiences growing up in New York City's Chinatown:

I am a product of the NYC Chinatown community of the 40's--60's where many of us did not have a lot in material assets but did have the tenacious energy & determination, in a tough competitive environment to

achieve success through education. It is this tenacity and ambition to excel that we overcame many obstacles and went on to enter various professional fields of engineering, science, medicine, law, education, and finance etc...Even as far back as middle school in Chinatown & Little Italy, we came to realize that we had a smart group of Chinese kids, both academically and talented in the arts. Of the twenty or so Chinese kids in my class, we were all accepted by entrance exams to attend Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, or Brooklyn Tech....a few also got accepted at the HS of Music & Art and Hunter College HS. Back in those days of the 50's, I did not recall seeing or meeting any Uptown Chinese kids at Stuyvesant. It was probably because the Uptown Chinese kids were either in private schools or not old enough for high school since their parents were still graduate students ("stranded scholars") or just getting started in their professional careers before having a family.

There were many other Chinese kids from the other boroughs, who attended the specialized academic high schools and were former classmates of mine when we all attended Chinese School in Chinatown, in the evenings, and lessons were taught in the Cantonese dialect with Mandarin as the 2nd dialect.

College for the Chinatown kids was mostly at City College, Queens, Hunter, Baruch, and Brooklyn College. For the families that could afford it, there were educational opportunities in the Ivy League, Big Ten, Stanford, UC, NYU, MIT, CIT, RPI, BPI, SIT, etc....

While in college as an engineering student, I was also intentionally involved in all types of extracurricular activities with the goal of learning, through real life experiences, the many complex personalities of people and their social interrelationships. One activity I took on proudly was the position of President of the Chinese Student Society (CSS) with some 50 students, engineering and science majors.

My platform for CSS President was simple and straight forward:

- 1) We were going to have fun and enjoy the socials & parties planned for the school year. It was fortuitous for the group since I was also the social chairman and 1st VP for a national fraternity on campus and was able to parlay my contacts with the female population.
- 2) Increase each student's competitive intensity level for scholastic excellence for getting on the Dean's List. Become a selected candidate for the engineering and science honor societies. Finally, play a proactive leadership role in your respective student engineering and science professional societies.
- 3) Have respect for your fellow students and follow the honor code with integrity since many of your fellow classmates have never met a Chinese person until college.

From my perspective, I never inquired into whether any of the Chinese students spoke Shanghainese, Mandarin, or Cantonese since we spoke to each other in English. It did not really matter to me since we were all Chinese and the concept of Uptown Chinese and Downtown Chinese never entered my mind. In reality, there were the larger majority of Caucasian students out there to compete with in all phases of student and academic life...rather than among our group of 50 Chinese students....

My first impressions on America's Program of the Decade--Apollo:

When I was at Grumman Aerospace Corp. on Long Island, in the early 60's, working as an Electronic Engineer on the Apollo Program to land a man on the moon, it was a proud experience being Chinese American. At this early stage of my career, it was extraordinary to see so many Chinese American engineers, throughout the Grumman Aerospace Center working on this important program of national interest in competition with the USSR's space efforts. Case in point, the Thermodynamics group had 40 engineers of which 4 were Chinese Americans. The numbers may not sound like much but it is 10% of the group and our overall USA Chinese population ratio was probably at 1% or less in the early 60's.

All of the Chinese American engineers at the time at Grumman were the children of Downtown Chinese immigrants living throughout the NY Metropolitan area, who originally came to America as laborers or merchants. Again, in all due respect to the Uptown Chinese, they were probably still in graduate school; or engaged in other professions at the time; or were not able to acquire the necessary levels of security clearances required for this vital national security aerospace program of the decade.

To quote, Page 232

"The influx of political refugees, the stranded scholars, and the Taiwan-and Hong Kong-trained professionals produced a new community of Chinese Americans.....
Moreover, as escapees from Communist rule or products of the anti-communist bastion of Taiwan, these Chinese had impeccable anti-communist credentials-They were the "good Chinese" These "Uptown Chinese" had very little in common with the early immigrants from the semirural regions of southern China, who were mainly working-class restaurant, laundry, and sweatshop employees. They did not even converse in the same dialect--most Uptown Chinese were from the North and spoke Mandarin or Shanghainese, while the Downtown Chinese spoke Cantonese. And they certainly did not reside in the same neighborhood. Most Downtown Chinese were isolated in ethnic ghettos, while the uptown Chinese moved into affluent integrated city neighborhoods or to the suburbs"

My initial reaction: What is wrong with being a working-class restaurant, laundry, and sweatshop employees when it is an honest living and providing support for a family and putting food on the table? Presumably, the ethnic ghetto was NYC's Chinatown where southern Cantonese Chinese families lived and relatives and friends would visit on Sundays' to socialize and spend quality time together. It should be noted that the northern Mandarin Chinese also came down to Chinatown on Sundays' to shop for Chinese groceries, pastries, and supplies at specific markets that cater to them. Sunday was always a festive day in Chinatown where many families (Uptown Chinese and Downtown Chinese) enjoyed Tea & Dim Sum and supper at the local restaurants. The common denominator was that everyone has to eat and Chinese food is always freshly prepared, delicious, and appreciated for its best value whether you are a northern or southern Chinese.

By now, the story of a working-class restaurant worker who teams up with several other workers and opens up a restaurant is well known. Through hard work and providing tasty value meals he becomes successful. Soon the owner buys the building where the restaurant is located in and expands to accommodate the growing business. As time passes, the owner starts to buy up the other buildings on the block and starts collecting rent from the neighboring store owners. To live the American dream, a house is purchased for the growing family. Along the way, a few other houses are purchased and more positive cash flow is generated in addition to the store(s) rental cash flow.

Success...Success for these entrepreneurial workers who saw a market need and filled the need by taking risk and opening a successful business, which subsequently provided the capital to venture into other business opportunities. This success example and/or variations of it were played out across America by many southern Cantonese Chinese immigrant families who did not have the formal college education that the northern Chinese were exposed to in the United States at the time.

By following the basic business model of **"Find a Need and Fill it"**, many southern Chinese went into various businesses such as import/export, food distribution, restaurant, vegetable farming, trucking, live poultry, martial arts, transportation, construction, etc. to provide a good decent honest living for the family.

In our family, we have had experiences along these lines and our relatives are doing very well financially and socially. The beneficiaries were our children who went on to attend Princeton, Cornell, Yale, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, MIT, and many other challenging well-known schools. When given the same opportunities a generation later, the children of these Downtown Chinese have moved into various professional fields that their Uptown Chinese brothers and sisters may have entered a generation earlier. With a level playing field, the future is wide open for both the Uptown and Downtown Chinese to excel and continue to exceed expectations in their professional and financial endeavors.

One of my major concerns was that your research for the book "Chinese America" neglected to include the exceptional Chinatown generation of the 40's-- 60's, from an academic and professional perspective. When a Chinatown example was used in your book, it was **Deborah Ow** who was an extreme example of her frustrations and struggles in various schools. Her unfortunate experience is in contrast to the fact that many Chinatown kids were in attendance at the top NYC specialized academic high schools at the time.

To quote, Page 257

"Yet, although they too encourage their children to perform well so that they can get into the best schools, their children's achievements very rarely measure up to those of "Uptown Chinese" professionals. Deborah Ow, who grew up in New York Chinatown, jumped around several high schools before ending up in the least desirable in the neighborhood, Seward Park High School, known for violence and poor academic performance".

Just from memory, I can readily cite names and careers of many of my friends and acquaintances from that era in and around Chinatown. They not only measured up to but exceeded the so called "Uptown Chinese" professionals' achievements.

Names of professionals and success stories from our generation.....

1. Newton Chin, Tom Moshang, Chester Chin, Ted Ning Jr, Jeanette Moy, Roy Chu, Kenneth Eng, James Ling, Lucille Len, Jonathan Ligh, Ming Wong, Ed Chin, Rose Chen- physicians & surgeons
2. Henry Woo, Paul Chu, James Quan, Naitan Chu... etc...who are dentists.
3. Ray Chin, Bruce Chin, Mabel Moy, Arthur Chu, Bob Chin, Ben Tuan, Ken Chow, Vincent Lee Joann Lee, Jean Lau Chin, James Moy, Calvin Lee, Harry Woo, Archer Dong, Soon H. Leong, Hung H. Wu who are PhD's, in their fields of expertise. Audrey Lee Mar, MD--research
4. Stanley Chin, Richard Wong, David Moy, Arthur Soong, Therese Liu, Ben Gim, Ed Hong, Gene Chu, Calvin Lee, Irving Chin...etc...who are attorneys.
5. James Wu, David Leung, Nancy Ng, George Lai, Donald Seetoo, Robert Yan, Patty Chow who are certified public accountants.
6. John Chin, Albert Leong, Marshall Lee, Richard Lee, Kai Wong, Edward Lee, Sing Chu, Al Ko, Daniel Lee, Charles Eng... etc. who are licensed professional engineers.
7. Roland Dick, David Eng, James Wong, Doug Tuan, Eric Leung, Ben Tomm-- licensed architects.
8. Joe Wong, Soy Chu, Ronald Lee, Ernie Mar, Phillip Chin, Milton Gee, Richard Mah, Kenneth Lee, Danny Moy, Jean Lee, Ted Ng, Howard Louie, Gladys Yan, Tom Low- successful entrepreneurs.
9. Ronald Tung, Alfred Lee, Peter Leung, Henry Kee, Bill Won who are successful bankers.
10. Simon Chu, Henry Kee, Peter Chin, Richard Lee, Daniel Lee...etc..who are corporate executives.
11. Clement Lee, David Fletcher, James Moy, Douglas Ong, Joseph Wong...etc...who are Th.D's. or PhD's. in the ministry.
12. Corky Lee, Tim Chin, James Ong, Henry Wong, Fred Ng, Eugene Eng, Joe Wong, Donald Chu, James Chin who are successful in commercial arts, advertising, & related media professions.
13. Henry Chin, Willie Wing, John Lee, Seymour Lee, Willie Ng, Ted Jung, Harry Chin, Alfonse Wong, Peter Chin...etc. who successfully worked for Wall Street brokerage firms.
14. Richard Chu, Ronald Leung, Guy Chu, Daniel Moy, Carl Chin, Phillip Chin- licensed pharmacists.
15. Calvin Lee was Chancellor, University of Maryland; Academic Dean, Boston University; James Moy was VP of Student Affairs, Wartburg College; Jean Lau Chin was Academic Dean at Alliant & Adelphi Universities; and President-Society for Psychological Study of Ethnic Minorities, APA
16. Helen Chin, Gingee Moy, Lila Chu, Jean Marie Chin, Elsie Chan, Tim Pon, John K Lee, Archer Dong, David Fong... etc...teachers who became principals and superintendents in education
17. Allen Chin, a Mechanical Engineer by profession, was elected Mayor of Westfield, NJ. Gene Woo, a Electrical Engineer by profession was elected Mayor of Plandome Heights, NY.
18. The list can go on, especially the large number of us that went onto engineering, mathematics, science, software, computer science, and education. As an example: Gim Lee, Jum Chin, Wan Leung, Jimmy Ng, Mark Eng, Bob Yun, Phil Jung & many others at IBM in New York State.

If I were to assemble a **"focus group"** of my Chinatown colleagues and friends over **Yum Cha** to recall more names, this list will expand with additional names to our **"Chinatown professional family tree"** especially, when we add our children who went on to their own successful careers. The "professional family tree" is a testament to our achievements & successes and validates the necessity to end the racial bias against Chinese-Asians in America. Only then, will we be a truly competitive force in the financial, educational, professional, social, business, and political circles. And in time, become a dominant force.

To quote, Page 258

"The concerted and determined effort of professional parents gives their children an enormous advantage over poorer Chinatown kids.....It is not surprising that the overwhelming majority of Chinese who attend elite universities come from "Uptown Chinese" families. It is their success that pushes up the statistical average, making all Chinese appear to be one of the most highly educated and professionally successful groups in the United States."

Be it the elite universities or city colleges, the Chinatown generation of the 40's--60's produced a significantly large number of successful people, in comparative numbers, who became doctors, lawyers, educators, engineers, scientists, accountants, bankers, financial consultants, etc. on par with the Uptown Chinese population. Not bad, when one considers the many advantages the Uptown Chinese already had on these children of the Downtown Chinese. However, the thread of commonality was that we are all Chinese and exhibit the same genetic DNA for quality education, professional achievements, and entrepreneurship.

Hopefully, the Chinatown generation of the 40's- 60's has been a role model for succeeding generations following us just as we have looked up to our parents and appreciated their hard work and sacrifices for us to be successful.

The Chinatown generation of the 40's, 50's & 60's was an exceptional generation and held a Chinatown Reunion in Las Vegas NV in 2002. It was so successful that a reunion has been held every other year in 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010. Las Vegas was selected for the reunion because the old Chinatown generation now has spread out and lives in every corner of the USA. Las Vegas was the ideal setting since it was always considered the adult playground and has pretty good Chinese food in the Chinese Community. The Chinese are well known risk takers when there is an opportunity and avid gamblers.

Please find attached a article for the 2012 Chinatown Reunion entitled: "**Celebrating Chinatown's 40's, 50's & 60's Exceptional Generation over Tea & Dim Sum**", for your information, highlighting some of our *challenges* and *lessons learned experiences* when we were growing up in Chinatown and proceeding on our journey through a life of "**being the best we can be**" and making our parents proud of us.

There are still many challenges ahead for Chinese Americans here in the United States, regardless of whether they are considered Uptown Chinese or Downtown Chinese. The time is coming for... "**Success will bring Contempt**" as *history is a masterful teacher and has a way of repeating itself...Discrimination*

I still consider your book "**Chinese America**" to be an outstanding contemporary book on the subject. The only exception is your usage of the terminology--"**Uptown Chinese and Downtown Chinese**".

Best Regards
Daniel Lee, (4/5/12)

Post Comment: Dr. Kwong- My warmest "**Congratulations**" on being selected and honored as a "**CUNY Distinguish Professor**", a title reserved for a highly select group of scholars. Currently, you are a Professor of Urban Affairs & Planning and Director of Asian American Studies at Hunter College. At the Graduate Center of CUNY, you serve as a Professor of Sociology. Your other noteworthy endeavors include but are not limited to being an award-winning journalist and film maker. With Bachelor Degrees in Physics and Mathematics; a Master in Engineering; and a Ph.D. in Political Science; your seminars, lectures, teachings, articles, and books can have a profound influence and shaping of young minds just by your authoritative image of professor & scholar- "**power of legitimacy**".

But I respectfully disagree with your terminology of "**Uptown Chinese and Downtown Chinese**" being used as **normative language** in your book. However, I will be an attentive listener if you think "*I am reacting to my own use of Uptown/Downtown*" and may have *oversimplified* your **differential semantics**, where in reality it is allegedly *a bit more complex*. My hope is for the Chinese community in America to simply be a dynamic and prosperous one, regardless of our past Chinese regional demographic history.

Chinese America—Sample Comments

Please find a sample compilation of comments that I have received to date from various recipients on my "Chinese America" letter-article e-mail to Dr. Peter Kwong and Dr. Dusanka Miscevic . Since we are part of the southern Cantonese Chinese speaking community, you can readily appreciate the interesting responses and opinions offered by the respective individuals based on their own past experiences with the northern Mandarin speaking and southern Cantonese speaking Chinese communities...which I have endeavored to present in a fair and balance way...some positive...some negative...but highly opinionated.

There are old sayings in politics...

"A lie told often enough becomes the truth"

"If you say it enough...and often enough...people will start believing it"

Thus, my concern for the **Uptown Chinese Downtown Chinese** terminology in "Chinese America" is being read by Caucasian Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans. Another conduit for the communications of this terminology is in the classroom environment where Professor Peter Kwong is a noted teacher and lecturer with considerable influence over his students in the City University system and as Director of Asian American Studies at Hunter College.

In my professional and social experiences, I have never had any difficulties in my relationships with the Mandarin speaking Chinese. However, this may be due to the fact that many of them worked for me in engineering while others were in my classes when I taught mathematics courses as an adjunct professor and conducted engineering management seminars in business school. There is always a **"standard of excellence" and a "high degree of credibility & factual responsibility"** when you are in a leadership position, whether it is in the business financial world, engineering, or academia. Perhaps I was naive to expect Dr. Peter Kwong to exhibit these attributes as a professor, scholar, and author.

We will see if he has the intellectual integrity and personal honor to have a dialog with me, or anyone else on his use of the terminology, **Uptown Chinese Downtown Chinese** in his "Chinese America" book. The malicious intent to perpetrate the idea that the Chinese American community is a "bipolar entity" with an upper class and a lower class is insensitive and disingenuous to all Chinese in America.

By participating in a dialog, we can have an honest and sincere exchange of ideas which are based on our recent real-life examples and experiences on the many achievements of Chinese Americans. The result will be a deeper understanding of any perceived past and present differences, if any; and plans for the future to address the many challenges ahead for us in America; regardless of whether we are of northern or southern Chinese-decent.

Then again, there may be a question that perhaps I am taking Professor Peter Kwong's terminology – **Uptown Chinese Downtown Chinese** out of context through my interpretation of their comments in "Chinese America". My simple suggestion is for everyone to read the book when you have an opportunity and decide for yourself through the prism of your own particular background to come to a conclusion as you realistically see it...based on your own experiences in an unbiased manner.

From a social viewpoint, we definitely had more fun than the Mandarin speaking Chinese as many of the northern Chinese would rather come to our parties and social events. And they did indeed... have a ball...at the summer beach houses in Westhampton Beach and Southampton L.I. and winter ski chalets in Stowe VT.

Like many of my Cantonese and Mandarin speaking Chinese friends and family...We earned it ... We are still enjoying good health and are blessed with a wonderful loving family life...God Bless...

Best Regards

Daniel (Dan) Lee, (8/15/12)

Chinese Year of the Dragon, 4710

Sample Comments and Opinions:

(Note)--Marion Wong, a long time friend, from the Washington DC area, forwarded my open letter-article, critiquing Dr. Peter Kwong & Dr. Dusanka Miscevic's book-"Chinese America", to her friends & family. Many of the responses went directly to her with a cc: to me.

Dan,

I thought Engineers couldn't write.

Since I haven't read "Chinese America" and reading your comments I have this to add: What he says was true, but he should not have labeled the two groups as Uptown and Downtown that correlates to Northern and Southern Chinese in China. If he added in his book, as you pointed out, that both groups are now equally competitive in America, the book would not be so offensive to the Southern Chinese.

Since Peter Kwong is a Professor at the City Universities he should realize that the Uptown and Downtown differences should not exist anymore, especially when the unified Chinese language is now Mandarin. The Chinese in America is now from Hong Kong, which has always been booming, and from Taiwan, which is a Chinese mixture.

In fact, I had a Ph.D. Mandarin Engineer working under me and just didn't have it. He was all technical with little usable knowledge.

In closing, where do you have so much time reading books?

Marion, re: "Chinese America" by Dr. Peter Kwong and Dr. Dusanka Miscevic

My personal comment here. It makes no sense to start a personal dispute with the authors. If Danny Lee wants their prejudice and bigotry be known, he should publish something in a national publication, like the NY Times or Wash Post.

Personnel, whether one is an "uptown" or "downtown" person is not important in America. What is important is we American Chinese have a history of being "model citizens". It matters not where we are on the social, educational, or professional ladder.

Marion,

Thank you for sending this email to me. I understand Dan's point. Just to add to Dan's ammo, my brother is an example of the downtown Chinese who is one that I would prejudicially consider an elite one. When Vic retired he was like the second man to the Secretary of the Department of Energy. From humble beginnings to his current status (meeting with Governor of NY and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair) he has gone a long way. It was not easy for him. Even though Vic is bright, his brightness comes with perspiration and hard work. Also, Pat (Ping) who is in Who's Who and is a pharmacist, Osteopath, and currently pediatrician in Hershey, PA, just to name a few of the elite downtown Chinese.

Marion,

Thanks for forwarding the email from Danny Lee. Unfortunately, there are continuing biases in virtually any setting, be it White/Black, Jew/Arab, fat/skinny, rich/poor, Ivy League/Non-Ivy, Private School/Public School and of course Mandarin/Non-Mandarin. If the author is open to comment and further review, he'll have to acknowledge the contribution and successes of Cantonese, ToiSan and other Southern Chinese/Americans. Dr. Kwong isn't the first and won't be the last Mandarin to snub Southern Chinese.

I was at a fundraiser luncheon along with Connie Chung at the University of Maryland last year where she very clearly showed her disdain for Cantonese. She proudly spoke of her two sisters, one marrying a man who became the first Chinese/American Admiral in the US Navy and the other marrying a man who became the first Chinese/American General in the US Army. She finally mentioned her last sister who brought home a Cantonese...to the shock and dismay of the entire family!

The final slap in the face came when she noted "nevertheless baba ended up liking the Cantonese son-in-law, because he was able to see those grandkids more...because that son-in-law never went anywhere", inferring that the other two son-in-law's were busy moving around the world building their stellar military careers. I was astonished and taken aback by her comments.

Here is just a very short list of many folks with families emanating from Southern China with extremely laudable and superior achievement:

- Gary Locke - ToiSan, Ambassador of to China, former Governor of the Washington State, former Secretary of Commerce
- Dr. Shui Yee Lee - ToiSan, Retired AT&T Bell Labs Senior Fellow, former North American Chairman of Lenovo, Real Estate Mogul, Global Entrepreneur and Founder/President of YES
- Dr. Greg Yep - Cantonese/ToiSan, EVP Research & Development Pepsico, former EVP McCormick Foods
- Mr. Poi Goon Lim - ToiSan, Real Estate Mogul
- Mr. Kenneth Lew - ToiSan, President/Founder of The Innovation Network, former COO Noblestar
- Mr. Keenan Cheung - Cantonese, Car Rental Agency Entrepreneur, former President/Founder of Rental Cars Direct
- Mr. Harry Leong, President of the Philadelphia Suns, Winner of White House Champions of Change Award 2012
- Ms. Penny Lee, Emmy Award Winning film editor, Producer/Director of the documentary film "The CYC Experience"
- Mr. Peter Fong - ToiSan, President of Carmoza, former President/CEO Chrysler North America
- Mr. Richard On - ToiSan/Cantonese, Guitarist for OAR...worldwide renown R&R band

This list is drawn solely from friends, family and associates whom I've personally known, so I'm absolutely sure there are many others. Although I haven't read the book, it sounds like this "work" is just part of the slanted, biased, haughty view that pervades in the Mandarin mind set. Yes, Mandarins have done a lot in many areas of society, but they certainly do not have a monopoly...except perhaps...in their own minds and in that of Dr. Kwong. While some members of the "Uptown Chinese" set choose to lord their achievements and successes over others quietly, for us "Downtown Chinese" we'll strive, we'll work, we'll

achieve, we'll prosper and we'll succeed. Hopefully and eventually, the future will shine the light on the whole truth and the respect and admiration for those who achieve will not be tainted with this silly bias.

Danny –

Just to acknowledge the article you sent to Marion Wong re. Uptown Chinese/d\Downtown Chinese...

Some us who live in Montgomery County, Maryland are experiencing the same things. Montgomery County has the largest Asian/Chinese community. The new Chinese that immigrated to the U.S. treat us like dirt, especially if we don't speak Mandarin - even limited Cantonese. Mind you these new immigrants can't speak English and they are working in low paying jobs.

Marion,

I haven't scanned the book yet and not sure of the "tone", but it sounds like the "old" "Northern Chinese elitist" and the Southern Chinese farmers.

From a Washington DC perspective, there certainly have been many "downtown" decedents of Chinese immigrant laundry and restaurant workers who have gone on to make an impact in government, academia and industry.

Also, some significant names of decedents from the "south – downtown" include:
Senator Hiram Fong – first Chinese American Senator (Hawaii) – his parents came from Canton

Betty Lee Sung – Department Head at the City College of New York and author of the Mountain of Gold – immigrated to Washington DC originally (parents were from Taishan and restaurant or laundry workers). She currently resides "downtown" in New York City Chinatown.

Ambassador Gary Locke – China, and former Secretary of Commerce and Governor of the State of Washington – grandfather came from Taishan.

I'm sure there are many others.

Daniel,

I had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Kwong many years ago, at a Chinatown demonstration that he organized to petition for the release of Dr. Wen Ho Lee. He is known for speaking out for the causes of the Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans. The "uptown Chinese and downtown Chinese" terminology that he used, in my opinion, simply meant to identified the professionals who are generally better off financially, and live outside Chinatown, in comparison to those who are less educated and earning less and live within or near Chinatown. In that regard, it does not seem to me that he intended to use those words in any divisive sense. We have been living away from Chinatown since we married. We feel and want to be connected to the Chinese community in Chinatown. However, the uptown Chinese, and I count myself in as one of them, and the downtown Chinese seldom interact with each other, perhaps because of our different life style and common interests. Thank you for sharing your thought with us.

Dan

Dr. Kwong is definitely one sided in his negative opinions of the Southern Cantonese speaking Chinese and has only positive opinions of the Northern Mandarin speaking segment of the Chinese American community here in the United States. He either has no knowledge of the Southern Cantonese speaking Chinese American's accomplishments in the past few decades; or worse yet, he has a deep seeded resentment and prejudicial bias against them. Dr. Kwong doesn't want to know nor is he interested in following up on any positive achievements about the Cantonese speaking Chinese Americans. And he just couldn't bring himself to saying anything complimentary about the Southern Chinese in his book. After reading some of his excerpts in Chinese America, Dr. Kwong came across as insulting and condescending in tone when he is addressing the Cantonese speaking Chinese American community; while, his tone completely changes to one of praise and adoration when he is addressing the Mandarin speaking Chinese Americans.

Nevertheless, Dr. Kwong is a person devoid of integrity and will be inconsequential because he failed to present an honest history and accurate picture of Chinese American accomplishments. Instead, he is consciously crusading for economic, social, and educational class differences among the Cantonese speaking and Mandarin speaking Chinese Americans which is not worthy of a person with his high profile education and university affiliated background.

It would be beneficial for Dr. Kwong if he could get together with you on a one on one basis. I'm fully confident of your ability to challenge and neutralize him with relevant facts and figures about the real Chinese American history in this country and enlighten him on the latest events.

Since I was one of your engineering program directors, I can still remember you challenging a few high-power MIT electrical engineering PhD's and reasonably convincing them that we were in the business of managing and running a highly sophisticated electronic systems division. Engaging in your style of productive conflict resolution with very smart engineers is a mental - gymnastic exercise at its best for both sides. In the end, it was a win-win cooperative resolution for everyone with a renewed engineering commitment and reinforcement of our business objectives for on-time high quality system deliveries.

While you may not have the same leverage with Dr. Kwong as with our company PhD's, your knowledge of the many generations of successful Cantonese speaking Chinese Americans, listed in your letter-article, will only confirm his lack of knowledge & understanding about the real life success stories of many descendants of Southern Cantonese Chinese immigrants.

Coupled with the many positive accomplishments of Cantonese speaking and Mandarin speaking Chinese Americans, Dr.Kwong should acknowledge the many contributions of our collective Chinese American community and not simply the one that he has attempted to segregate into an Uptown and Downtown Chinese divisive grouping for whatever reasons.

Dan

Actually, uptown and downtown Chinese was used as a phrase in the 50s referring to the location of Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese in NYC. Chinatown was considered the slums by the "uptown" Mandarin Chinese.

Danny,

I'll be waiting to hear if this SNOB of a Chinese bothers to answer you.....In my experience, here in L.A. I have met quite a few northern Chinese that verbally have expressed to me that we Cantonese were not Chinese.....and that only the mandarin speaking Chinese were the real Chinese..... This used to start my fire and I'd give them a piece of my mind.....

I don't think this idiot will give you a reply.....he probably thinks he's above writing to you...I hope you checked out his book from the library and didn't buy it to get him richer than he thinks he is...That poor bastard is a POOR.....CHINAMAN.....

MANY..MANY CANTONESE WERE INTO POLITICS IN THE OLD DAYS AND WENT TO PEKING TO HELP RUN THE GOVT.....THEY HAD THE EXAMS IN THE SOUTH AS WELL AS THE NORTH AND PICKED THE SMARTER CANTONESE TO GO HELP IN THE NORTH....THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO SPEAK MANDARIN EITHER...AS THEY ALL WROTE THE SAME LANGUAGE.....

Marion,

I have known Peter Kwong for several decades. As you know, I've published three books on the Asian Americans--two which are oral histories containing the experiences of Asian Americans (Chinese included).

Dan, I too grew up in NYC's Chinatown, went to PS 65 (SP), and I read with much interest the excerpts you pulled from Peter's book. I will get a copy and look through it. I was the first New York Correspondent for CNN, and certainly the first Asian American CNN hired.

There are various things that can be done to further the dialogue--as an academic myself --Ph.D. from NYU, and a Professor of Communication at William Paterson University, and as a former professor within the CUNY system at Queens College. I see this as an important discourse.

Dan

Thanks for your email to Dr. Kwong putting your comments in context. I agree with the seeming negative and derogatory tone toward the "downtown Chinese", and your comments to Dr. Kwong. At the same time, his tone and comments reflect the very attitudes that predominated at the time. It also speaks to the need to further and continue the NYC Chinatown Oral History Project that we were working on. I have not had the time to pursue this much over the past year for a number of reasons. One is that I became a Fulbright Specialist candidate and have a grant assignment to go to Chinese University, Hong Kong on my research with women and leadership.

Danny

I have read the linked excerpts of this book. I did not find the book interesting. I found it a little offensive. I am appalled at the condescending attitude of a so called educated person such as Professor Kwong. It is a very myopic view of the accomplishments of the Chinese American communities. This professor has jumped to many conclusions based on his limited view of the world. Where are the statistics and surveys which would validate his claims? It appears that like his book, he only recognizes accomplishments and values of his personal 'Uptown Chinese' social connections. His attitude seems to 'toot the horn' based on so called class.

In the early day, I recall being looked down on by those very same 'Uptown Chinese' (many were wealthier not necessarily better educated - at that time). Many of those same families also became our friends when we went to college and began socializing. The attitude and differences in education has changed. Professor Kwong's book is just a snob's attempt to devalue (or ignore) accomplishments of people he does not even know and highlight accomplishments of what he sees as his elite group.

The Chinese communities (both the so called Uptown and Downtown) have grown and accomplished many things. There are still many Chinese immigrants coming whose children will join the ranks of our children as Chinese Americans. These future generations will most likely surpass our accomplishments.

A truly well educated person would recognize that we are not Uptown and Downtown Chinese Americans. We are simply Chinese Americans who are all proud of our heritage and our accomplishments. Professor Kwong is full of hot air. Although I dislike his assumptions and views, Professor Kwong's opinions have no value to me. Nor, do I respect this type of person.

I am just expressing a personal opinion.

Daniel

I am so proud of you and your writings of NYC Chinatown and bringing our community culture to light and so much to reminisce. Your response to Dr. Peter Kwong is admirable and I hope he sees that we "Downtown Chinese" are a very proud group of "ordinary" and "professionals".

The 6th New York Chinatown Reunion 2012 will commence on Monday, May 14th, which I am sadly unable to attend, Gladys Chin is a wonderful organizer and I will miss not being there to help her in any way I can.

Daniel

Of course, there is a racist, cultural bias among Cantonese, too. Those who speak "Sam Yup" dialect versus the "Szei Yup Wah" or Toisan... The one is melodious, the latter kind of coarse and hoarse. The taller light skinned northerner versus the tanned dark skin southern; urban versus rural...rich versus poor; and Hakka Chinese versus the Han Chinese. The story goes on and on and on even here in the Pacific Northwest.

My take on the Cantonese (based on my experience here in Seattle) is that they are very clannish. That's a cultural reaction. I think I've been culturally conditioned that way. The Cultural Memory sticks indelibly. People in one valley may not see people from the other valley for generations! (or--at least for years).

There is a suspicion there based on Chinese history. It is hard to be friendly...or, at least, among rural folk everywhere. You never trust the stranger! So goes American Western History! Then, too, I am an Introvert. What bearing does that have from a Jungian Psychological standpoint?!! According to the Myers Briggs Temperamental Inventory I am an INTJ.

Dan

There are other friends of mine - college educated - professional - who chose to practice (and perhaps live) in Chinatown. They do so because they liked it! Here are some names (some have since died).

My old basketball coach Donald Seetoo - Brooklyn Tech graduate, Certified CPA.

Stanley Chin and Richard Wong are both dear friends who became Attorneys. I think Stan ran for political office once.

Gene Chu -- my basketball buddy from Clown Days. He became a lawyer. He became a business partner with Mary Hui's dad who was President of the Chinese Restaurant Association. My own father-in-law had been President of that same organization once.

Newton Chin -- an Ophthalmologist who still practices in Chinatown and donates his services to the poor in Chinatown. Newton's family has a long history of eleemosynary service in Chinatown. Their family owned the Rice Bowl in Chinatown.

Ming Wong -- an old friend who died young was a Yale graduate and became a Pediatrician. He, Calvin Lee and I all lived on the same floor at 47 Mott St.

Jimmy Quan, a Dartmouth graduate who became a Dentist.

You've mentioned Ernie Mar who became a successful Insurance Broker and Businessman. These are just names of buddies and friends whom I grew up with in Chinatown.

The women in Chinatown were also accomplished. I use to know so many of them. Called the "Daughters of China" DOCs -- became the first all female Chinese basketball team in Chinatown.

Dan

I read his book and I am pissed...need I say more

Danny

The attitude at the China Institute and Sino American Club in NY in the 1940's & 1950's was one where the Northern Chinese thought of themselves as elites and were living the good life on the west side of Manhattan and in the suburbs. Both organizations had their own circle of friends and it was difficult to break into the group if you were an outsider, especially if you were Cantonese. But these Mandarin career diplomats and oversea Chinese students & families soon ran out of the old Chinese Nationalist money, taken out of China during the evacuation to Formosa and now they had to finally face reality and work for a living like the earlier Cantonese Chinese immigrants and their families.

Through education, hard work, and business opportunities serving as society equalizers, the children of Cantonese Chinese immigrants now have leveled the economic, social, and professional environment. Today we should think of ourselves as being part of the Chinese American community here in the United States and not one of Mandarin or Cantonese in spite of any past differences.

In looking at your "list of names of professionals and success stories from our generation", I personally know many of the individuals and it took a lot of hard work with a good educational background to achieve their successes. The listing is all the more impressive when you think back to all of us having to overcome many challenges. A driving force to excel and succeed was always a family objective and every resource was used and sacrifices made to ensure the success of the next generation by our parents.

Has Dr. Kwong or Dr. Miscevic responded to you on your letter-article e-mail with any comments since your initial contact? He didn't think the Southern Cantonese speaking Chinese immigrants and their children would amount to much in his book-Chinese America. Did Dr. Kwong ever interviewed the people or lived in Chinatown to arrive at his conclusions? I'm curious in his rational and motivation for making his derogatory statements and comments about our little Chinatown community when he probably spent the majority of his life as a student in college and now as a teacher in the City University schools. It is readily apparent to me that both authors are merely typical academic professors with elitist ideals and possess limited practical experience and knowledge of the real working world outside the college classroom.

Dan.

Thanks for forwarding on these comments. Something tells me this Peter Kwong has no sociology training or understanding of the immigrant population in the USA. If he did, he wouldn't use the language of "Uptown Chinese vs. Downtown Chinese." One of your readers is more charitable in trying to understand what he was trying to say: "Careless descriptors done in ignorance".

We know the second or third generations will usually leave Chinatown because most are educated and are financially able to move out into the suburbs. This is true for all immigrants.

Once the language barriers and educational, financial barriers are over come they merge into the 'melting pot' and become Americans in the truest sense of the word. Of course, nowadays, the "melting pot" analogy is politically incorrect so Americans are now in a wonderful salad bowl

Dan,

Wow, that was a powerful letter...very nicely put.

Danny

This Professor Kwong is off the wall with his opinions and is willfully ignorant and biased against Southern Cantonese speaking Chinese which has led him to exercise poor judgment in coining the phrase “Uptown/Downtown Chinese” in his book Chinese America. In this day and age of rising Asian American influences in many aspects of American life, there should be a concern for non-Asian envy and resentment leading to increased racial discrimination against Asians, in particular Chinese Americans because of China’s economic success.

The last thing we need is a Chinese professor stirring up the pot of class and culture warfare within the Chinese American community of Northern and Southern Chinese. It is a sad this Hunter elitist professor and author is also making egregious statements about the Southern Cantonese speaking Chinese community in his book. One might want to consider the basic root cause for Professor Kwong’s thinking: what were the compelling events and professional or personal experiences in his life that directed him to be so blinded by his anti-Cantonese animus that it is so readily transparent in his writings?

It may have been the political-social influences of the Columbia PhD Program environment with the subsequent hype of the overall Municipal City University system and the show-biz passions of the Big Apple on the Hudson.

Our Chinese community is doing fine down here in this quiet little college town of Princeton NJ and we have not experienced Professor Kwong’s delirious symptoms of “Uptown/Downtown Chinese” fever to derail our pathway to success and having intellectual honest conversations.

Dan

With the stroke of a pen, Dr. Kwong’s “Uptown Chinese Downtown Chinese” words have now inherently polluted decades of Chinese American achievements in America where he has only legitimized the Northern Chinese achievements with examples of their educational advantages and professional status. Dr. Kwong has neglected to credit the same degree of legitimacy to the Southern Chinese achievements of the last half century here in the USA. Both groups are currently well educated and in professional and vocational fields making their respective contributions and impact on American society.

The accomplishments are remarkable when you consider the odds against these native born Chinese Americans entering medicine, education, law, engineering, sciences, information technology, accounting, art, music, business and many other professions and vocations. A top-grade education, determination, and ambition were the key discriminators in eliminating the “barriers to entry” for many opportunities.

It is inexcusable that Dr. Kwong failed to demonstrate scholarly discipline and perform the required due diligence research on how the children of Southern Chinese immigrants overcame racial discrimination and economic hardships to enter many professional fields in America. Today, the Northern and Southern Chinese are a single entity completing the full story of a successful Chinese American journey in America.

Dear Mr. Lee:

First, I want you to know that I really enjoyed reading your commentary on “Uptown Chinese Downtown Chinese.” I came to NYC in 1948 from Taishan so I definitely qualify as a “Downtown Chinese” even though I lived in Mid-town Manhattan and graduated from P.S. 69 on West 54th Street. That was primarily due to the fact that my father managed a restaurant on West 51 Street, half a block from Radio City. This is another factor which designate me as a “Downtown Chinese” because of my father’s profession or the lack there of.

I am especially impressed by the vast quantity of data you have presented in support of your arguments, in particular the long list of notable individuals by name. I would like to add just a couple of data points to what you already have. First, you mentioned Jeanette Moy, who happened to be my classmate in the 5th grade in Chinese School. I am sending you a copy (please see attachment) of our 5th grade class picture taken in 1949. The first girl in the second row from the right is Dr. Jeanette Moy (the one with really bushy hairs, all the girls have bushy hairs back then). I am the third kid in the last row from the right, the one with a crooked tie.

Since Seward Park High School was mentioned in a rather denigrating manner in the article, I would like to introduce a rather illustrious alumnus from that school:

Hung-His Wu lived on Bayard Street between Elizabeth and Mott Street. Hung is a graduate of Seward Park High School and entered Columbia University where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He subsequently went on to MIT and earned his PhD in mathematics.

After graduation, Dr. Hung Wu became a member of the well known prestigious Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton University. After Princeton, Dr. Wu accepted a position at the University of California at Berkeley and became a full professor before he was 30 years old. Dr. Hung Wu is currently retired but he still keeps an office in Evans Hall (Mathematics Building) on the UC Berkeley campus.

Dr. Wu also gained a certain amount of notoriety in the 70's because he came to Berkeley in the same year as the Unabomber, Dr. Ted Kaczynski. Because the two were colleagues, the FBI had many interviews with Dr. Wu concerning the Unabomber affair.

(This modest kid from Taishan in 1948, with the crooked tie, had to learn English and subsequently went on to Yale University and earned his Bachelor, Master, and PhD in Electrical Engineering.)

(Summary of Cantonese Chinese Achievements, 40's, 50's, & 60's Exceptional Generation)

A short list of friends and acquaintances from that era are presented for historic notation and to serve as role models for succeeding generations to follow and appreciate the hard work of earlier generations in breaking down the educational, discriminatory, and competitive challenges to achieve their successes in various professions. These talented children of first generation Southern Chinese immigrants not only measured up to but have exceeded the so called "Uptown Chinese" professionals' achievements.

Names of professionals and success stories from our generation.....(12/16/17)

1. Newton Chin, Tom Moshang, Chester Chin, Ted Ning Jr, Jeanette Moy, Roy Chu, Kenneth Eng, James Ling, Lucille Len, Jonathan Ligh, Ming Wong, Ed Chin, Rose Chen-physicians & surgeons
2. Henry Woo, Paul Chu, James Quan, Naitan Chu... etc...who are dentists.
3. Ray Chin, Bruce Chin, Mabel Moy, Arthur Chu, Bob Chin, Ben Tuan, Ken Chow, Joann Lee, James Moy, Calvin Lee, Vincent Lee, Jean Lau Chin, Harry Woo, Archer Dong, Soon H. Leong. Hung H. Wu who are PhD's in their fields of expertise. Audrey Lee Mar, MD-research
4. Stanley Chin, Richard Wong, David Moy, Arthur Soong, Therese Liu, Ben Gim, Ed Hong, Gene Chu, Calvin Lee, Irving Chin...etc...who are attorneys.
5. James Wu, David Leung, Nancy Ng, George Lai, Donald Seetoo, Robert Yan, Patty Chow who are certified public accountants.
6. John Chin, Albert Leong, Marshall Lee, Richard Lee, Kai Wong, Edward Lee, Sing Chu, Al Ko, Daniel Lee, Charles Eng... etc. who are licensed professional engineers.
7. Roland Dick, David Eng, James Wong, Doug Tuan, Eric Leung, Ben Tomm- licensed architects.
8. Joe Wong, Soy Chu, Ronald Lee, Ernie Mar, Phillip Chin, Milton Gee, Richard Mah, Kenneth Lee, Danny Moy, Jean Lee, Ted Ng, Howard Louie, Gladys Yan, Tom Low-- successful entrepreneurs.
9. Ronald Tung, Alfred Lee, Peter Leung, Henry Kee, Bill Won...etc...who are successful bankers.
10. Simon Chu, Henry Kee, Peter Chin, Richard Lee, Daniel Lee...etc.. who are corporate executives.
11. Clement Lee, David Fletcher, James Moy, Douglas Ong, Joseph Wong...etc...who are Th.D's. or PhD's. in the ministry.
12. Corky Lee, Tim Chin, James Ong, Henry Wong, Fred Ng, Eugene Eng, Joe Wong, Donald Chu, James Chin who are successful in commercial arts, advertising, & related media professions.
13. Henry Chin, Willie Wing, John Lee, Seymour Lee, Willie Ng, Ted Jung, Harry Chin, Alfonse Wong...etc. who successfully worked for Wall Street brokerage firms.
14. Richard Chu, Ronald Leung, Guy Chu, Daniel Moy, John Chang, Phillip Chin who are licensed pharmacists.
15. Calvin Lee was Chancellor, University of Maryland; Academic Dean, Boston University; James Moy was VP of Student Affairs, Wartburg College. Jean Lau Chin was Academic Dean at Alliant & Adelphi Universities; and President-Society for Psychological Study of Ethnic Minorities, APA, President-International Council of Psychologist
16. Helen Chin, Gingee Moy, Lila Chu, Jean Marie Chin, Elsie Chin, Tim Pon, John K. Lee, Archer Dong, David Fong... etc...teachers who became principals and superintendents in education.
17. Allen Chin, a Mechanical Engineer by profession, was elected Mayor of Westfield, NJ. Gene Woo a Electrical Engineer by profession, was elected Mayor of Plandome Heights, NY.
18. Johnny Kai, Joe Wing, Eugene Lee, Robert Chung, Tom Chan, David Chong, Dewey Fong, Gene Lee, Paul Chu, Barry Eng, Tommy Ong who are police officers/detectives-NYPD.
19. Baayork Lee, Jadin Wong, Wallace Wong, Joe Wong, Mabel Wing-Broadway Plays & Movies.
20. The list can go on and on, especially, the large number of us that went onto engineering, science, mathematics, computer science, software, medicine, law, & education to add to the growing list. In spite of the most oppressive racial discrimination policies against a single race--**Chinese Exclusion Acts, 1882** in USA history, we overcame challenging adversities & hardships, by way of education and hard work to produce smart, resourceful, responsible, and respectful citizens. Our Chinese culture of excellence and achievements will serve as a dynamic living model for Chinese Americans & other ethnic minorities in this challenging, complex, & competitive world.

Daniel (Danny) Lee, (12/16/17)--Chinese Year of the Rooster, 4715

Notes:

Time--- waits for no-one along the age continuum: Things never stay the same across the dimension of age...so enjoy the present...every moment of it...and believe in the future—while celebrating the past. Daniel (Danny) Lee...

The NYC 2018 Chinatown Reunion will be held on April 15—April 19, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV.

Dr. Jean Lau Chin is a visiting professor & Fulbright Scholar at the University of Sidney in Australia for 6 months on a Fulbright Scholar Award as Distinguish Chair in Cultural Competence. Jean will miss the 2018 NYC Chinatown Reunion. However, she will be connecting with the Chinatown Reunion via electronic video & telephonic communications from Australia