

Comments on Chinese America Article

August 2019

When I first started communicating with Dr. Peter Kwong back in 2012 after reading his book-"Chinese America", Peter appeared reluctant and brief to my letter-article which were based on actual facts and real life examples of our Cantonese Chinatown generation's experiences while growing up in the era of the mid 1940's to mid 1960's.

However, over time, he read some of my other articles and realized that we were really on the same page on many "Chinese" discussion topics, especially when it came to discrimination & racial bias. My last contact with him was when he was organizing a rally at the Roosevelt House, Hunter College, for Dr. Xiaoxing Xi in October of 2016. Peter asked if I could spread the word via my data base and network of friends & associates to come out and support this important rally.

I believe Peter really appreciated the support and concern that I had for Chinese American here in America regardless of whether they were of Northern or Southern Chinese backgrounds when I responded positively to his urgent request and supported him .

We subsequently exchanged e-mails and looked forward to meeting in New York City when my travel plans permitted it. I had put together a 19 page write up for discussion purposes which included my original letter-article on "Chinese America" (6 pages) followed by a compendium of comments from people living throughout the United States who grew in the New York and the greater Metropolitan area in the 40's---60's. Also included in the package was a 7 page article entitled: "Celebrating Chinatown's 40's, 50's, & 60's Exceptional Generation over Tea & Dim Sum" which was referenced in my original letter-article on "Chinese America".

Sadly, I learned that Peter passed away in 2017 and I never got the chance to meet him in person for our Yum Cha session to exchange our views and perspectives on Chinese Americans and to share and learn from each other's academic, social, and practical experiences. The thought of possible collaborative efforts on Chinese-Asian American issues was also clearly on his mind. I was looking forward to a intellectual and stimulating brunch over Tea & Dim Sum with Peter.

From a historic notation for our present and future generations, perhaps both of these two attachments may be incorporated into the "Memories of NYC Chinatown" web site-"Issues & Insight" section as a update with additional names of professionals from our generation (based

on Jean Chin's latest book which highlighted educators, law enforcement, entertainers etc.), and a reminder that all was not sugar & sweets among the Chinese American community of Northern & Southern Chinese in the mid 20th century here in America.

But I'm comfortable to say that the educational, professional, and economic playing field has been leveled between the two groups. We are Chinese Americans here in America with no reference to Northern or Southern Chinese origin.

All the Best & Good Health

Mahalo

Dan