

PROJECT: TELL YOUR STORY

If you don't know who Shavey Lee is you are probably too young for this project. You don't have to read further.

Project Proposal:

This is an invitation to tell your story. Our hope is that our stories can be published but there is no assurance they will. As Editor we are going to try. Hopefully, the book will contain as many life stories as possible.

REASON FOR THIS PROJECT.

Background: There have been a number of Asian authors who have made great strides in educating the American public about the Chinese in America. Stories from the families of Hong Kingston and Amy Tan have served their purpose. American Historians such as Drs. Claire Lee and Ron Takaki (to name a few) provide a scholarly approach in understanding our roots and the American experience of the Chinese in this country.

The one thing missing is the NY Chinatown story. The story of the Toi Shan¹ generation that emigrated to this nation in the 1900s, the 1920s and 30s and their offspring -- Our generation. Our achievements and experiences in America are generally invisible by and large to the American public.

What was it like growing up in America? What was going on in our families in the 30s, 40s and 50s? What did we do then? How did we survive? What were our challenges? How did our parent's make it, and, more importantly, what are the contributions of our generation?

So, who cares about us? We care.

Florence Ho said this once at a wedding banquet: "Someone should explore the archive at PS 23 and follow-up on all its graduates. If they did, they've uncover a goldmine of talent and people who have made a significant impact on this country! People need to know about that." We would include PS 130.

Florence was the owner of what was then the Port Arthur Restaurant. It sat above the old Chinatown Fair. If you don't remember the restaurant and the Chinatown Fair, you might be a little young for this project!

¹ Better known as the Guandong and Guanzhou region of China: the Cantonese speaking generation that emigrated to America.

Important Points:

1. This is not a sociological study. We just want you to tell your story.
2. The suggestions below is only that – a suggestion. Feel free to organize your material in any fashion you wish. We will provide a sample of one of our stories should you decide to tell your story. You don't need to copy its outline or content. Be original. Tell your own story.
3. Feel free to include significant events and experiences in your life.
4. Do not worry about spelling, diction or grammar at this stage. When we get to the publisher we'll edit and "clean up" the English. Our point is – don't let this be a barrier to your sharing.
5. There is no limit on number of words or number of pages.
6. Deadline dates can be negotiated individually. It all depends on how much progress we make, and how many participants we end up with.
7. There is no assurance your materials will be accepted by a Publisher, but don't let this stop you. After all, telling your story is half the fun in this project!

Suggestions: (These items are optional)

What was your family like? Help your reader understand background of the family. Describe who they are, what they do, what they enjoy, What are their achievements? Describe memorable events and experiences, Describe significant experiences and their impact on you. Describe conflicts and frustrations growing up. Describe educational experiences. Describe career, occupational experiences. Describe your religious background and experiences Important people in your life. Consider organizing according to life cycle.

You can start anywhere. As Editors we will offer suggestions for revision.

Editor's Criteria: Our main criteria will be: Is this informative? Does the writer's personality shine through the content? Is the story told in an interesting manner?

Confidentiality:

Do not say anything you do not want to be publicly known. Share only what you are comfortable sharing with any audience. Be as personal as you wish, but do not say anything you might regret later on.

Our Role & Relationship with You:

If there are some questions about content we will contact you.

You will need to approve any copy that goes before any publisher. We will not submit your materials to anyone without your approval.

There is no assurance your story will be accepted by a publisher.

We have no assurance that any of our materials will be accepted by a publisher.

If a book should materialize and is published by someone, all income earned from sale of this book will be given to the NY Chinatown Museum. This will be included on the face of the book.

If you are interested, write to James Yee Gan Moy at: <jykmoy@gmail.com>

On the Subject Line Type: TELL MY STORY PROJECT.

If you have questions on organization and content we will try and answer them as best as we can. Include your phone number and snail mail address.

We expect all correspondence will be done electronically with materials generated by attachment.

We use Microsoft Word on an iMac.

Co-Editors:

James Moy aka "Yee Gan" <jykmoy@gmail.com>

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