

New York Chinatown

By George Moy

Looks like NYC sure has expensive real estate as we all see its growth and changes.

The Manhattan Chinatown you knew is but a memory. Where Chinatown Fair was located under Port Arthur is now a condo; across the street from PS 130 was a parking lot is now a condo; James Center on Mott and Hester Streets is now a condo; Universal (Chinese theater) on Hester and Bowery is currently under construction with yet another condo. These condos are selling for about 1.5 million for a two bedroom.

Flushing Chinatown is now the largest Chinatown in New York. The Chinese population in New York is the largest in North America. There are now 593,000 Chinese in this city of 8.2 million and the total Asian population of the city is 1.2 million. There are now four Chinatown settlements in New York. You know about Manhattan, Flushing, and Brooklyn; now there is a growing Chinatown in Staten Island off the Verrazano Bridge.

Remember the reputation of Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights in Brooklyn? 2 bedroom condos are selling for 1.3 million each there.

P.S. 23 is a senior citizen center since 1973 yet everyone still refers to it as PS 23.

Mrs. Brown was our 6th grade teacher who taught us math for the 7th and almost 8th grade levels while we were at P.S. 23. She commanded attention by telling us she was a former police officer, (which may have been a purposeful lie) who definitely left her mark on every student in her class. The worse was our 3rd grade teacher who banged Hank Kee's head against the blackboard and that scared the hell out of me then. I learned, at the reunion in Las Vegas during a breakfast, why she left scars and/or cuts on Hank's head. Our group was all in the same class at P.S. 23 until we separated later on. Tom Ming and Jeanette Eng had the highest IQ's.

We visited Mrs. Brown (6th grade teacher) when she was 99 years old in 2001. She still remembered us. She passed away at age 102 in 2004. She was very surprised when we visited. We told her she had made a positive impact on our lives and she was very touched.

For a teacher that must be the greatest source of satisfaction and pride hearing from past students.