

FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY

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CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY

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2020 SPRING GREETINGS FROM SHAN LIANG, CHINATOWN LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGER



To Our Friends of Chinatown Library members:
 I hope you are all well and safe at home. In a continued effort to protect the health and safety of our patrons, staff and community, the Los Angeles Public Library branches will be closed at least through May 15, per Mayor Eric Garcetti's "Safer at Home" directive.

While the Chinatown Branch doors are temporarily closed, our library continues to be a place of inspiration, education and excitement.

I encourage you to visit us and use your library card to enjoy free e-books, newspapers, magazines, movies and music, as well as online classes and homework help. You will also find a calendar of daily online events such as storytimes, book clubs, gardening tips and teen crafts. If you don't have a library card, Los Angeles residents can sign up for an electronic library card online.

The Chinatown Branch staff are also here to support students and families in their distance learning efforts through the following programs:

Children

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. (Instagram Live) - Storytime Live with our Children's Librarian
 Thursday and Fridays afternoons (Zoom) - Virtual class visit for Castelar Elementary School students
 Please email Chinatown Branch's Account at cwtown@lapl.org for details on children programs.

Teens

Wednesdays at 4 p.m. (Zoom) - Teen Virtual Career Day
 Ongoing, Virtual Teen Council Meetings (Zoom)
 Please email Chinatown Branch's Account at cwtown@lapl.org for details on teen programs.

Adults

Mondays at 2:30 p.m. (Zoom) - Virtual Chinese Conversation Class
 Tuesdays at 3 p.m. (Zoom) - Let's Talk, for Chinese-speaking participants to talk about their experiences while we are Safer at Home.
 Please email Chinatown Branch's Account at cwtown@lapl.org for details on adult programs.

We will keep you updated on services and programs. Please visit lapl.org for the most up-to-date information.

We will continue serving our community beyond the library walls and look forward to welcoming you again when we reopen our doors!



2020 SCHOLARSHIPS BY SUSAN DICKSON

COVID-19 has brought uncertainty to our scholarship schedule. For over 30 years FOCL has given out the scholarship applications in January, interviewed in May, met with the scholarship winners at the library, and had a scholarship dinner in June.

Since the library closed on March 14, the high school scholarship program has been in limbo. The library staff is currently working from home. Without access to the mail, we do not know how many high school applications have been received or the total number of donors.

The Evans Adult School scholarship process has been easier because everything could be done online. We were able to conduct Zoom interviews with the qualified applicants.

FOCL still remains committed to awarding high school scholarships. However, this year the board has decided to forgo the annual scholarship dinner. Other decisions will be made when the library re-opens and when we have access to our mail. FOCL will keep donors and the community informed about how we proceed with granting scholarships.

EVENTS AT THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY

January 4, 2020

Our Chinese New Year's Paper Lantern Program was featured on LA Channel 35. They gave a brief interview on why library programs such as this helped bridge human connections, cultural identity, and cultural awareness.



February 1, 2020

Teen Volunteers Coco Li and Henry Chen help pass out library bags and promotional materials during the Golden Dragon Parade. We had an estimate of 260 visitors come by the library before the parade.



February 2020

The Teen Council teens work together on designing jewelry and developing business plans to sell jewelry.



December 2019

Chinatown was declared one of the top 15 branches to have the most community service hours completed by our amazing teens between October – December. All the teens will be received water bottles and blue tooth speaker incentives for their services.



January 2020

Teens learn how to make buttons using our button maker. It was really fun seeing their creative side and learning about their personality.



Our Newest Librarian

Lynn Nguyen is the new Young Librarian for the Chinatown Branch. She is passionate about developing engaging programs for children and teens around art, technology, and student success. Her most distinguished acknowledgement was the 2017 Charlotte Award (Children's Librarian of the Year) for providing exceptional services to support early literacy and programs for the San Gabriel Valley community. She continues to teach painting classes on a monthly basis for Glendale and San Marino Public Libraries, to participate as captain of the Koreatown Run Club and to manage a pet sitting business. The Chinatown Library is fortunate to have this energetic librarian!



Children's Furniture

FOCL were excited to fund the new table and cute chairs for the children's area.



Reading 4 Fun Club

The library is always supporting of reading enrichment. Here are students who have won prizes for increasing their enrichment reading.



Adult Music Program by Julia C. Giles

On January 11, 2020, our library celebrated the 2020 Lunar New Year, Year of the Rat, by hosting a Chinese music concert. We invited Mr. Zhiming Hang, virtuoso yangqin musician and composer, to perform a 45 minute show for our library patrons and visitors. The yangqin is a traditional Chinese musical instrument also known as the Chinese Butterfly Harp.

Many patrons, including a few visitors from New York, expressed their appreciation for this special program that explored the beauty of Chinese music. At the end of the live performance, the audience asked questions about this unique



instrument and its significance to the Chinese culture. They've also expressed their anticipation for future programs similar to this one.

Illustrator, Oliver Chin

A visit from illustrator, Oliver Chin, entranced students from Castelar Elementary School. He teamed up with two budding artists to work with him on a project during his visit.



Bill Chun-Hoon continued

Patty Kao, Advisory Member

In 1996, I was working long hours at my first job post-college job, housed in the First Interstate Bank building, also known as the Library Tower, across from the iconic downtown Central Library. Growing up in Connecticut with a librarian mother and bibliophile professor father, I naturally thought of the library when I was seeking a volunteer opportunity close to my office. The Central Library required too structured a commitment, so I landed at the Chinatown Branch in Castelar. Carol Duan didn't have other 25-year old volunteers like me, so she matched me as a sidekick to Grandpa Fred Gong during his Monday Grandparents and Books shift. Discovered there, I was energetically recruited by Dr. Ruby Ling Louie to join the Board of the Friends of the Chinatown Library, which launched my life-changing library volunteerism and friendship with Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon.

So much of my involvement with the Friends of the Chinatown Library was motivated by Bill's example of tireless volunteerism and contagious good cheer. I lost count of how many FOCL newsletters we produced together... How many scholarship award dinner programs I worked on after Bill (and other hardworking Board members) would magically wrangle annual scholarship checks... A few Cathay Golf Tournaments...

But the best memories I have of Bill are our rituals of friendship developed over 20 years: the brown paper bags filled from his backyard tree he would present me with the enthusiastic announcement "Patty... KUMQUATS!"... The Firecracker Runs we would leisurely walk together... The commemorative postcard of each new Chinese New Year zodiac stamp, designed by his cousin Clarence Lee, he would mail me... The late night emails he would send with newsletter questions or scholarship dinner confirmations or whatever other project was keeping him up past midnight!

I have so much respect for Bill's beautiful heart, filled to the brim with his love of life, love of his family, and love of Chinatown. But the image I will forever miss is Bill lighting up an ordinary meeting room in the Chinatown Library with his extraordinary smile, exuberant greetings, and passion to serve beaming from his face. Thank you for everything you did and everyone you inspired. Bill! Rest in peace.



Chris Ung, Advisory Member

Bill Chun-Hoon was one of the founders of the Friends of the Chinatown Library, and an active participant in many other community organizations. Bill was committed to advancing literacy, particularly among our young people. He promoted the sponsorship of scholarships to high school graduates and to adults entering community colleges as well as actively recruiting donors.

Bill was a mentor, role model and cheerleader, who worked tirelessly for the Chinatown community and community-at-large. I valued his positivity, kindness and commitment and was proud to call him a "friend."



Pou-Wen Hee, Adult Librarian

When I began my position here in 2000, Dr. Chun-Hoon was one of the few people I encountered who supported me in my new position. Dr. Chun-Hoon introduced me to the Friends of the Chinatown Library group, which he spearheaded. His enthusiasm to support our library and community was contagious. He always had a smile on his face and was very encouraging. Many students, teachers, and families who visited our library enjoyed Dr. Chun-Hoon and always greeted him. He was very well-respected and made significant contributions to our library and community. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to send my deepest condolences to his family. I am grateful for everything Dr. Chun-Hoon did for me and for everyone he impacted.



Angelica Moyes, Board Member

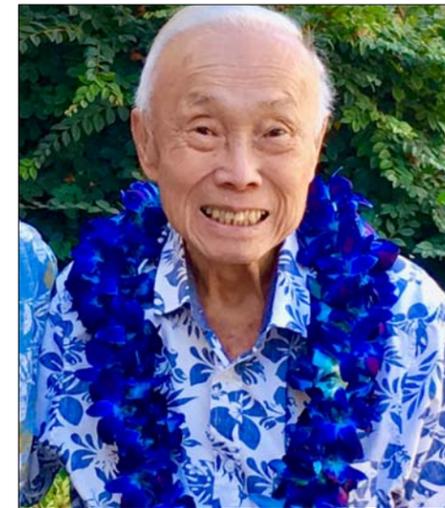
After years of hearing about the legendary Dr. Bill Chun Hoon, I finally had the honor of meeting him in person over dinner before my first Friends of the Chinatown Library meeting in June 2019. Although this first meeting was the only time I would spend with Dr. Chun Hoon, he demonstrated his thoughtful and gracious demeanor. He warmly welcomed me to the FOCL family and genuinely expressed interest in me—asking question after question. His thirst to learn more and his curiosity were infectious. We parted ways after our Friends meeting, and I was treated to a flurry of emails that illustrated his passion, commitment, and love for the Chinatown community. Dr. Chun Hoon's clear devotion to service, history, and—above all—community, leaves an everlasting impression on me.

In Memorium: Dr. William Chun-Hoon

Words from Board Members and Library Staff

Cindy Fong, Board President

Bill Chun-Hoon was one of the most compassionate and altruistic persons I have had the privilege to know. He lived to serve others. I had the honor of working under him as a Castelar Elementary School teacher for 13 years. Our friendship continued and deepened through my involvement with FOCL, as Bill remained an active member until his passing. Through my thirty years with this community-based organization, I was witness to Bill's unwavering commitment towards the betterment of the Los Angeles Chinatown community, and especially, its youth.



Bill had an astounding memory for names and faces. He knew every child at Castelar. Moreover, when alumni returned for a visit, unrecognizable teenagers, Bill immediately called them by name, asked after their siblings and other relatives, and inquired if their interests and hobbies remained the same.

Bill was unique. His influence for good remains unparalleled. May he continue to be our lodestar.



Susan Dickson, Board Member

Walking in Chinatown with Dr. Chun-Hoon in the 80s was like being with a *rock star*. Smiles greeted him as he remembered admirers by name. The residents knew him not only as a principal but also as a mover and shaker in Chinatown. As the principal of Castelar, Dr. Chun-Hoon opened the campus to the students and their families as well as to community groups for meetings and health and safety fairs. Everyone felt welcome.

When he became principal, Dr. Chun-Hoon joined the Ad Hoc group that was fighting for a library in Chinatown. Dr. Chun-Hoon promoted the Castelar School auditorium as the library site. From the ground-breaking to the current day, FOCL has a photo record.

I can't remember any event at the library without Bill and his camera. Bill always documented the library's staff, patrons, and activities. His photos showed the library to be a happy place, filled with grandparents reading Chinese newspapers, classrooms making bi-monthly visits, teen-agers meeting friends after school, and students doing their homework. (I don't think he took pictures of the students on the stairs waiting for

their parents after school). I remember the photos of Grampa Fred and Grandma Margie reading books to the students. I remember the Saturday English Conversation Classes (ECC) for adults. I remember when Lawrence Yep came and gave a book talk before going out to dinner with FOCL members. At every scholarship dinner, Bill was there recording our history.

Bill documented the many changes of the Yale Street Library: the library expansions which included a children's room, a computer room, a community room and a new entrance. On February 6, 2003, the library got

its own identity when it moved to its current location. All the elected officials, FOCL board members, and students from Castelar are in the photos.

Over the years, Bill collected our history through photos which were included in our newsletters. Bill became our historian. Bill was our Rock Star.



Candace Lee, Board Member

As a graduate of Castelar Elementary, I was always sorry that Bill Chun-Hoon was not the principal when I attended the school. His warmth and caring would have made a big difference in my elementary education.

Thus, when I ended up working with him on the Friends of the Chinatown Library, I was happy for this connection. Up until the last year, he was at every meeting, contributing with his ideas and informing us of his scholarship contacts for the coming year. I feel lucky to have spent that time with him.

At one of his last meetings with our group, I told him it was great to have him attend. He responded by sharing with me that FOCL was now the only meeting he was attending due to his health. Undoubtedly, he thought very highly of what our group contributes to the community. I will miss him at our monthly dinners held prior to our meetings and always remember him ordering his favorite dish, lettuce wrap minced chicken.



Bill Chun-Hoon continued

Yvonne Nishio, Advisory Member

Forty years ago, Dr. William Chun-Hoon was our principal when my two daughters attended Castelar Elementary School. He was from Hawaii so he didn't speak much Chinese, but nevertheless, we parents found him to be very warm and welcoming. We especially respected his commitment to improving our children's education and the Chinatown community.

Dr. Chun-Hoon was co-founder of the Friends of the Chinatown Library (FOCL), along with Dolores Wong and Ruby Ling. He convinced the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to allow the Chinatown Library to co-locate on the Castelar campus. This temporary trailer-size library had the most books checked out in the entire library system! FOCL was then able to put pressure on L.A. City to build a large, permanent library in Chinatown.

Dr. Chun-Hoon also addressed the childcare needs of working parents in Chinatown. He brought on Lauren Okayama, an early childhood development specialist, to Castelar. Together they developed a program for preschoolers and later, an after-school program. The Castelar Children's Center was one of the first of its kind and became a model for LAUSD to offer pre-school and after school programs.

I had the privilege of collaborating with Dr. Chun-Hoon the last 25 years. Shortly after retiring, he became interested in adult education. We spent many hours talking about how to meet the educational needs of immigrants in the Chinatown community. I was an ESL teacher and curriculum developer at Evans Community Adult School, located a few blocks from Castelar. I offered Dr. Chun-Hoon ESL materials written for adults. He shared these materials with the library and other community groups to jump start on-site classes and tutorial programs for adults.

At the same time, Dr. Chun-Hoon and I initiated the FOCL Scholarship Awards at Evans for students who achieved their high school diploma. In 1999, we started with two scholarship awards at \$500 each. This past year, FOCL awarded fifteen scholarships of \$750 each to Evans graduates who went on to community colleges or training programs.

Dr. Chun-Hoon liked to remind students to "give back" to their community after they finish their education. As an example of "giving back", Farzana Cassim, one of the first recipients of the adult scholarship program, now serves on the FOCL Board.

In summary, Dr. Chun-Hoon was a caring and innovative educator. At the time he proposed these initiatives, they had never been done before. His success lies in his belief that education is best served when the needs of the community are met:

- When Chinatown needed a library, he and others founded FOCL to advocate for a new library.
- When it took years to find a location and build the proposed library, he offered temporary space at Castelar.
- When Chinatown parents needed comprehensive childcare, he developed the Castelar Children's Center.
- When immigrants were dismayed by their limited future, he pointed them to adult ESL classes and offered scholarships to support those continuing into higher education.

This list is incomplete because he was involved with many other projects. He touched our lives with his kindness, positive attitude, and his steady leadership. We all miss Bill, and we will remember him as a visionary educator and a true community hero.



Fleur Fong, Advisory Member

Bill Chun-Hoon had a passion to help the children in the LA Chinatown community. During Chinese New Year he would give lucky money in red envelopes to children studying at the library. Bill was also passionate about contacting donors to give scholarships to these same students who became seniors eligible for college. He was a teacher at heart, and I will always remember he encouraged me when I started the Friends website. Bill had a vision for the Friends of the Chinatown Library where he served for many years. His smiling face, generous heart and tireless service will be missed.

Bill Chun-Hoon, continued

Shan Liang, Chinatown Branch Manager

Last fall, we lost Dr. William Chun-Hoon, who was one of the founding members of the Friends of the Chinatown Library. He did so much for the community and the library throughout his life. So many people have been changed for the better because of him.

Every year, he worked tirelessly behind the scenes, reaching out to various local organizations and individuals about donations for our Friends' scholarship program. Many high school graduates from low income families and even adult graduates have both benefited from this scholarship in their pursuit of higher education.

I feel so fortunate to have known and worked with him through my entire tenure as Branch Manager at the Chinatown Branch. His leadership to the Friends group, knowledge of the community, passion for helping those in need, positive energy, and signature smile are missed by us all.

Julia C.Giles, Adult Librarian

Dr. Chun-Hoon's unwavering commitment to our Chinatown community has left a lasting impact. My best memory of him was always his nice warm smile. I still remember him saying, "Hey Julia! Good to see you!" and "Good Job, Julia!" as he would pat me on the back.

I never knew anybody who was as dedicated to his community as Dr. Chun-Hoon. He was the first Chinese-American principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District and also one of the founding members of the Friends of the Chinatown Library. He was very encouraging and supportive of our library programs that enriched our community.

The very last time I saw Dr. Chun-Hoon was in May 2019 when he came to conduct interviews for our scholarship candidates. He was so committed and wanted to do everything he could to support students in our community. I send my sincerest condolences to his family during this difficult time.

Wanda Fong, Board Member

Dr. Chun-Hoon always thought about children and their interests first. Foremost to him, he saw them as the future. This dedication was found in his actions--he greeted and addressed his students by their first names--

not merely saying "Hi". He also continued to follow their paths after their culmination

from Castelar Elementary. These students who now have families of their own have visited the library and inquired about him. He was a strong influence to all who knew him and to many, he was their "unsung hero!" Dr. Chun-Hoon, a dedicated and compassionate individual, will truly be missed by all.

Jeff Leng, Board Member

I met William Chun Hoon in 1987 at a meeting of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) when he and Ruby Ling Louie managed to get my mother to sign up to be a volunteer for the Chinatown Library's new outreach program, English Conversation Center (E.C.C.). Over the next 32 years Bill was a close friend to my mom and me.

In 2012 I even agreed to become treasurer although mathematics has not been my strength. Bill would often stop by on Mondays when I would be in the Friends office doing the FOCL bookkeeping to get the latest scholarship donor information.

Cathay Bank hosts an annual golf tournament; the proceeds are given to FOCL. I went with Bill twice to their golf tournament in 2014 and 2016. Bill and I sat in a golf cart to be "Hole in One" observers. Bill enjoyed telling me details of the good times he had had while playing in past tournaments. He would patiently explain the meaning of each golf term. I told him my only experience playing golf was on a Wii computer simulation. He found it funny that the computer would tell me to "GIVE UP" because I took so many hits at the ball.

Bill enjoyed coming to the library to take pictures of the patrons, the social events in the community room or book signings by authors promoting their newest book. Bill also enjoyed coming to dinner before our monthly Friends meetings at the Chinese restaurant, either at Good Taste, or Jade Wok, or the current one Fortune Gourmet. It was a way to keep informed about what was happening at his old school, Castelar, from the board members who were still teaching there, to chat with us and find out what carpentry project I was currently doing.

What I will always remember about Dr. Chun Hoon is that every time I would see him there was a big, wide grin on his face. No matter how big the problems I faced on a particular day seemed, his smile would be a sign that he knew that everything at the end of the task was going to be alright.