

Memorial Scholarship Funds



Ruby W. Chiang (1924-2017) was born in Tientsin, China. In 1948 she came to the University of Wisconsin and earned an MS in Organic Chemistry. Shortly after, she married Robert Chiang, also a research chemist. Ruby also earned an MS in Environmental Science & Engineering from the University of North Carolina. They relocated to St. Louis where Robert died at a young age. Ruby took care of the family

of 4 children and her mother, herself being diagnosed with breast cancer. She did research at Washington University, and also taught Chemistry in the Junior College District, where her classes were always in high demand. She was instrumental in the formation of the national Organization of Chinese Americans collaborating with members from Detroit and Washington, DC; and serving as President of the St. Louis branch. Ruby came to Fremont in 1978 to join her daughters. She continued as an active member not only of OCA, but SBCC and CBC. Known for her intelligent wit and humor, for her progressive and modern thinking, she was generous to people who needed help.



Bing J. Gee (1914-2004) was a Toisan native, immigrant to the S.F. Bay Area when he was 16. Working in private homes, he learned English at the Berkeley Adult School, graduated high school, and completed his B.S. in civil engineering in 1942 at the Polytechnic College of Engineering in Oakland. Husband to Kam M. Lee and father of six, surveyor and draftsman in defense as well as many subdivisions and housing developments, and dedicated volunteer with his professional

skills in the Oakland Chinese community. Mr. Gee early on believed in the value of education, which he passed on to his children. Because he was the first among his generation of cousins to graduate from a U.S. college, he was a role model and mentor to them.



York F. Gin (1921-2004) was born in China and immigrated to the United States in 1934. Salinas was home to York for 70 years. York was a member of the Chinese Senior Club, a charter member of CACA and Salinas Northeast Rotary Club. He had a 20-year tenure as a trustee for Alisal Union School District, a 40-year tenure as Commissioner for the Housing Authority of Monterey County and Director of the Salinas

Chamber of Commerce. He was a past president of Hartnell College Board of Trustees, Alisal Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Benevolent Association and Chinese School. York was a strong believer in education and helped fund several elementary schools in his native China.



Dora Gin (1922-2019) was born on August 25, 1922 in China. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1940 and joined her husband, York Gin, in Salinas, California, which was her home for 74 years. Dora, together with York, owned and operated a Neighborhood Grocery Store and Gin's Super Market from 1940-1970. Dora and York joined the Salinas Golf and Country Club, enjoying many years of golf and traveling throughout the world together. Dora was a remarkable cook and enjoyed preparing meals for her family and friends. She was an avid gardener with beautiful orchids, peonies, gardenias, as well as fruit trees--apples and Chinese pears, and many Chinese vegetables. Dora was a devoted family woman--generous to the multitude of relatives in her extended family.



Robert Vun Yau Lee (1932-2015) was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was in the Army and served in Korea. He graduated from San Francisco State University and worked for PG&E for 30 years. For many years, Robert was instrumental in bringing the Hawaiian culture, dance, music and sports to people in the Bay Area. Robert loved playing the ukulele. A long-time member of SBCC, Robert served as President of SBCC in 1971-72 and 1993-94, chaired and participated in numerous committees of the Ways and Means. Because of his love of golf, Robert also volunteered to chair the SBCSC Scholarship Golf Tournament for several years.



Karl Ngan (1926-1994) was born in Tucson, AZ, and **Frances Ngan (1930-2021)** was born in Victoria, BC. They met in Portland, OR where they raised four children and later moved to Fremont. Karl and Fran were long-time members of the South Bay Chinese Club, held several positions over the years, and participated in many of the scholarship fundraising and social events. They enjoyed playing golf, mah-jongg, and traveling the world with their SBCC friends. Karl and Fran instilled the values of education and community service in their family. This memorial scholarship honors these values and recognizes those in the coming generation who will continue to practice these ideals.



Dick F. Szeto (1917-2010) was a Hoiping native and a civil service worker in Guangdong Province. He received his law degree at the Chinese Mun Fah University in Guangzhou. His desire to practice law was cut short due to the Communist takeover of China. He came to the United States in the 1950s and opened his own grocery store in Oakland in 1960s. Husband to Lila Ginn and father of four, he encouraged his children, who all completed college, to love their families and give back to the community. He served as president of four San Francisco civic, literary, and family associations. He enjoyed calligraphy as well as composing essays and poetry, and sponsored siblings' and godbrother's families to the U.S. in the 1970s so they too can have better lives.



Mary Ruth Wong (1925-2017) was born in Tientsin, China, and came to the United States in 1948. She earned her degree in English Literature from Edgecliff College in Cincinnati, OH and a MA degree in Music from the University of North Carolina. Being deeply religious, she served as a Catholic missionary in Singapore for 14 years, doing missionary work for The Grail, a Catholic lay apostolic movement. Mary Ruth returned to the U.S. to help take care of her own mother who had emigrated from Communist China. She was a talented pianist and taught music in schools in Durham, NC and later in St. Louis, MO. After retiring, Mary Ruth moved to Las Cruces, NM and lived in a senior community along with many accomplished musicians. Mary Ruth came to Fremont in 2015. She was always soft spoken with a sweet smile. Mary Ruth brought beauty and appreciation of music and the arts to all she knew.



Gerry Low-Sabado (1949-2021) was born in Monterey, a fifth generation Chinese American who grew up unaware about her family's Chinese fishing village story and began a journey to research and tirelessly tell her story. She has helped to bring a change in attitude regarding local Chinese American history. For 5 years, she has appeared in the Monterey Bay Aquarium deck show called "Turning the Tide – The Story of Monterey Bay" seen by thousands of visitors to the aquarium.

Gerry received her BS degree in Early Childhood Education and was an educator, Director of the Learning Tree Child Care Center in Fremont, and advocate for teachers and early childhood education. Gerry is a past president of Citizens for Better Community and a past president of South Bay Chinese Club.



Howard Tom (1908-1996) is the founder and charter president of South Bay Chinese Club. He served four terms as SBCC president (1966-67, 1967-68, 1970-71, and 1980-81). Howard came to the United States at age 14 and was held at Angel Island for two weeks before being allowed to enter. Howard was President of Fremont Art Association, served on Fremont's Recreation Commission, and in 1965, named Chairman of the Bay Area Parks and Recreation Commissions Council. Howard was also the founder of the Chinese Club at the Fremont Senior Center.



Huey Wong (1911-2005) was born in Toisan, Guangdong Province in China. Huey attended McGill University in Montreal, Canada and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the US. He dedicated much of his later life to his philanthropic endeavor to Sun-Yat-Sen University, its Lingnam College and Lingnam University in Hong Kong, and also advancing educational opportunities in his home village. Huey moved to San Francisco and joined Chinatown YMCA Public Affairs

Committee which was very active in community services in the Chinese community. After his retirement from the Sunnyvale Building Department, Huey continued his philanthropy giving to many social and community organizations in the Greater Bay Area.

ABOUT SBCC/SBCSC

The South Bay Chinese Club was formed in 1965 to preserve the culture and customs of the Chinese heritage, to foster and encourage better understanding of civic responsibilities and the American way of life, and to promote the general welfare of the community.

In 1984, the Club formed the South Bay Chinese Service Club, a California non-profit organization. The Service Club was formed to provide state and federal tax-exempt status in its pursuit of community service activities, such as the Scholarship Program.

One of the most worthwhile activities that the Club sponsors is the annual Scholarship Program. This program began in 1970 by providing two scholarships of \$100 each to graduating high school seniors of Chinese descent. In 2022, the Scholarship Program provided \$41,000 in scholarship money to 22 graduating seniors. In 2023, partnering with Chinese Immersion Parents' Council of Fremont (CIPCF) to inaugurate the Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP) scholarship program, a total of 28 students will receive \$46,375 in scholarship money. From 1970 to 2023, approximately half a million dollars of scholarships have been awarded to local high school graduating seniors. The scholarships are normally presented at the annual scholarship award banquet where all recipients, as the Club's guests, are addressed by one or more keynote speakers.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Jane Lin (*Chairperson*)

Dr. Clifton M. Der Bing	Serena Suranyi
Dr. Ben Chew	Aaron Wong
Joseph R. Fruen, Esq.	Maelene Wong
Dr. Fran Sabado-Gin	Joe Woo
Cecilia Leon	Aliene Yee
Randy Sabado	June Yee



www.southbaychineseclub.org

ABOUT CIPCF/MIP



The Chinese Immersion Parents' Council of Fremont (CIPCF) has supported the Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP) of the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) since the fall of 2010. The program is now hosted at Lila Bringhurst Elementary School, Hopkins Junior High School, and Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, CA.

The mission of the Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP) is to develop lifelong learners and well-rounded global citizens in an academically excellent, socially aware, and technologically advanced environment promoting Chinese language and cultural awareness.