



# The Bowfin Inquirer



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## Asian-Americans In Foster City's History

by Weyman Wong (372)

*(This essay was inspired by **Rachel Chinn's** recent death. She was the wife of once FC Mayor Roger, who passed away Nov 2019.)*

While I can easily pen a 20-page report on the demographic changes in FC during my over half century stay here, I'll try to condense in to a 1-page report.

When we moved into emerging FC immediately after my return from Vietnam with the USAF in 1967, the city of a little over 5000 was comprised mainly of whites with less than 10% Asian and a handful of Afro-Americans. Yet, during those early years leading to incorporation as a city in 1971, my civics class teacher would've been proud to see the then Asians stepping up to the plate to serve our community. Recently deceased Roger Chinn and wife Rachel were among that group who stayed up into the wee hours of the morning helping to decide FC's future. They were joined by Marilyn Yim, who became the first female councilwoman and Kiyoshi Matsuo, who himself also served as a FC mayor after Roger. I learned how much sacrifice they'd performed by Bob Hong, who served on the Planning Commission as both director and board member for many years. I was both proud and embarrassed to learn of the toil they'd offered without expecting compensation. While their early years saw none at all except for the gratitude of their fellow residents, I recall Bob finally mentioning his receiving \$75/mo for his efforts, for constantly biking around the unbuilt city to visualize how the Planning Commission should decide on builders' petitions, for staying well after

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## Aaron's Question Column

**Question:** I've often heard of John Dewey as a leading figure in public American education. Can you tell us anything about him and his significant contributions to this important element of our nation?

-Jerry

**Aaron's Answer (A'sA):** John Dewey was one of America's leading philosophers, who specialized in education in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. John Dewey's main ideas +concerning education were centered around a philosophy called pragmatism. Those who believe in it propose the idea that humans learn best through practical applications of what they are learning. John Dewey believed strongly that schools should promote physical and mental activity including playing, contact with nature, and the child's communication skills. He said that in school children should actively participate rather than passively listen and develop cooperation and responsibility. It should be noted that thanks to Dewey, all those aspects are present in our modern schools, as opposed to the schools before his time, where all learning was knowledge based, and judged with tests, not necessarily participation.

Personally as a student who studies in a school which uses his ideas, I dislike John Dewey's system. Even though it is supposed to bring children together and develop emotionally and educationally well-rounded kids, I have first-hand experience saying that it doesn't. The participation aspect doesn't make failing children succeed more, instead it forces others to participate more and distracts them from learning more because knowledge is no longer the most important way to get good grades.

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