

Yee Fung Toy Association of Houston Picnic 8-6-2016



The Yee Fung Toy Association of Houston had its annual scholarship/picnic on August 6, 2016 at the beautiful Sugar Land Memorial Park in Sugar Land, TX (20 miles southwest of Houston).

A total of 52 Yee members and friends (ranging from ages 2 to 93) enjoyed a time of fellowship, games, and of course, barbecue!!! Instead of grilling outdoor in the 97- degree heat, the barbecue was catered from a local restaurant, well known for its delicious barbecue cuisine.

Due to the excessive heat, scholarship awards and meals were held under the park's beautiful huge pavilion, which easily and comfortably accommodated all who attended. The unique design of the pavilion enabled a gentle flow of air throughout the pavilion. While not exactly the same as the breeze under the palm trees in Hawaii, it was a welcome relief from the scorching sun!!

The barbecue consisted of sausage, beef, turkey, and chicken, with peach cobbler as dessert!! The food was delicious! For a day, gluttony was encouraged and the word "dieting" was but a forbidden and forgotten word!!!!!!!

Games consisted of horseshoe, Frisbee, water gun fights, mountain biking, etc.



Surprisingly, some “senior members”, despite heat index warning, were seen on mountain bikes and frolicking in the sun. They must have good and healthy “Yee” genes that protected them from the oppressive heat!!

Even our most senior member, **Mr. Lewis Yee** (age 93), braved the heat to attend. Uncle Lewis certainly exemplified the good genes of longevity from our Yee genetic heritage. A bona-fide WWII hero with two Bronze stars, heat and humidity were but a nuisance compared to what he had to endure in the summer heat in Shanghai, Xian, and Nanjing during WWII. This event was truly but a “walk in the park” to him. Speaking of good genes, some of us were glued to the Olympic swimming results for the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle preliminary trials. A young man named **Yu Hexin** (余贺新 age 20) from a nearby village in Toi-san or (Taishan) was one of the Olympic swimming team members representing the Peoples’ Republic of China in Rio, Brazil. Though he did not make it into the semi-finals or the finals, we took special pride in that fact “he was one of us”!!!!

The other main event of the afternoon was the scholarship award presentation. The event began with our Youth Director **Roger Yu**, standing on top of the picnic table bench to overcome the ambient noise of the park and from the audience, recounted the history and source of the scholarship funds. Basically, the source of the funds comes from the generous donations of Yee members and families. The donations are then matched by the Yee Association Headquarters with income from rental properties that our Yee forefathers bought in the 19th century (the properties were originally used to provide temporary housing for new immigrants from our provinces). The more members and donations we have, the more matching funds we will receive from the Yee Headquarters for our young scholars!



Roger encouraged all of us to visit <http://yeefungtoyusa.org/home/en> and links to other Yee chapters (including [Houston](#)) to learn more about our Yee history and activities within the local chapters.

The scholarship winners this year were as follows:

1. Karissa Lew 6th Grade; Dulles Middle School; Sugar Land, TX
2. Noah Tien 6th Grade; Truitt Middle School; Houston, TX
3. Susan Yu 8th Grade; Albright Middle School; Houston, TX
4. Nicholas Tien 10th Grade; Cy Ridge High School; Houston, TX
5. Matthew Yee 10th Grade; Elkins High School; Sugar Land, TX
6. Christopher Yee 11th Grade; Elkins High School; Sugar Land, TX
7. Hillary Woo 12th Grade; Clements High School; Sugar Land, TX

We want to give special kudos to our only senior in the scholarship award, **Hillary Woo**. In addition to the scholarship from the Houston Yee Fung Toy Association, she was awarded the MD Anderson Teen Volunteer Scholarship from the prestigious MD Anderson Hospital in Houston. Excelling in academics was not Hillary's only accomplishment; she was on the school's tennis team for four years!! She will be majoring in Nutrition at Texas A&M University in the fall with plans to become a dietician!!!

Congratulations again to all the winners. Continue to study hard and be a good citizen and model to others. Other than Hillary, we hope to see and honor you again at the scholarship award in 2017!!!

An event like this cannot succeed without the cooperation of everyone. We owe our "spirit of cooperation" in part to the general leadership to our current Chairman **Frank Yu**, whom we teasingly and affectionately called "President for Life". In addition, we owe a special thanks to

Roger Yu and Vickie Ong. Roger coordinated all the events, from selecting the site and menu to providing us with endless supply of cold drinks and water! Vickie devoted many hours organizing and evaluating the scholarship applications. The scholarship winners would not be holding the beautiful trophies without her diligent efforts.

We look forward to similar activities next year. Meanwhile, may God's blessings be upon each and every one of us!!!!

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