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# The Weekly RAG

*For the United Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and Donaldina Cameron House*

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## Sunday, February 4, 2018

We welcome back Pastor Kimberly after her sabbatical.

## Happy Birthdays

### February

Robert Hee  
Linda Choy Young  
Stanley Wong  
Anthony Wong  
Timothy Chuck  
Mei Yee  
Norm Proctor  
Patricia Chan  
Rachel Wong  
Sarabeth Leong  
Ruth Leong  
David Soohoo

## Congregational Feedback Survey

Responses to the Pastoral Evaluation Survey are due Sunday night February 4. This is an important opportunity you have to provide input to the Commission. You can use the link below or ask Dave Miller to email a link to you. If you want a hard copy to fill out, contact Heidi Wong or Mark Fong.

<https://goo.gl/forms/3MbQwic5ftMBUJaR2>

## Upcoming ACBA Games

If you want to spend a nice Sunday afternoon cheering on a hard-working, energetic team, come on out to the last couple of Cameron House basketball team games at the Alameda Point Gym! So far, the team is 3 - 2.

- Associates on Sunday, February 11 at 2:10 PM
- Taisho on Sunday, February 18 at 2:10 PM
- Play-offs the weekend of February 24 -25, schedule TBD

Questions? Contact

Anson Ho <[anson@cameronhouse.org](mailto:anson@cameronhouse.org)>.

## Women's Fellowship

As our Valentine's Day gift for each of ten (10) SafeHouse residents, we will gather on Sunday, February 11, to put together the bags. This year we decided on something easier: to purchase \$10 Target Gift Cards and Valentine Candies. The cards will enable the residents to make their own personal-item needs. And thanks to Nancy Chee and Marie Chin for making bracelets (red beads, of course!) to include. Just purchase \$10 Target Gift Cards and/or Valentine Candies and bring on Sunday, February 11. Thanks for your participation. The residents very much appreciate being remembered on Valentine's Day. Contact Mildred ([mildredhal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mildredhal@sbcglobal.net)) if you have questions.

On Monday, February 19, WF will meet at Sabrina Gee-Shin's home for a Hot Pot (da been low) dinner and fellowship (6:30PM). We will all participate by bringing the ingredients to cook. If you would like to join us, please RSVP soon to Mildred and she'll forward details and more information for you.

## Presbytery Meeting

All are invited to the next meeting of SF Presbytery on February 13th at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Israel Hao Guo will be officially received by the Presbytery as the Commissioned Ruling Elder for the Mandarin Worshipping Community. All from PCC are invited to be a part of this special day for our community.

And then, mark your calendars for March 11th when Israel will be officially installed as the Commissioned Pastor for the Mandarin Worshipping Community. The service will begin at 5 and there will be dinner provided afterwards. Please join the Mandarin community as they celebrate this special occasion.

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## Our Theme & Readings

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### February

4 Isaiah 40: 21-31  
Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23  
Mark 1: 29-39

11 2 Kings 2: 1-12  
Psalm 50: 1-6  
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6  
Mark 9: 2-9

### Online Giving

Some great news for our congregation. You can now make a gift online to support your church community! Click on the "Give Now" button at the bottom of the PCC home page [www.pccsf.org](http://www.pccsf.org). You select how you would like your gift to be made and which worshipping community you would like it to go toward. You can add a note if you want to dedicate the gift to someone special. For questions about how to give, see Tad Hopp. For questions about your gift, see Dave Soohoo or Winchell Quock.

### Minute for Mission

Norman Fong grew up in a housing project. Coming from a low-income family he learned early in life what it was like to be evicted and to not know where to go. These days, Fong serves as a pastor of a Presbyterian church in San Francisco's Chinatown, the church he credits with helping his family find a place to live. He also serves as executive director of the Chinatown Community Development Center and has become a champion for low-income housing residents. People living at or below the poverty line have struggled for decades to find affordable housing in cities like San Francisco. The high cost of living has forced many to seek community housing,

### Good News for the Pews

The latest issue of Good News for the Pews is available on the PCC web site. The quarterly newsletter is published by the English-speaking worshipping community with information for all in our worship family. If you know someone who is not on our email list and might like to learn more about us, please forward this message to them.

Here are some highlights for this issue:  
. A book review that will spark your interest on life in North Korea

. A day with the DINKS and SINKS  
. A year in review by Pastor Ronnie Kaan  
. A baptism

We miss Pastor Kimberly who is on sabbatical and will return in February. She does not have an article in this issue.

. You can read the newsletter at:  
<http://www.pccsf.org/documents/201802PCCNewsletter.pdf>

If you don't have the link handy, you can always navigate to the What's New page at [www.pccsf.org](http://www.pccsf.org) You'll find a link there.

### Tea Time for February

The Deacons would like to give special thanks to the following people for taking the time to provide treats for Tea Time for everyone to enjoy.

2/4 Sabbath Sunday  
2/11 Jean Chin & Richard Jann  
2/18 Birthday Cake  
2/25 Kathy Tong & Brad Woo

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong or on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong. We also are in need of volunteers to help clean up after Tea Time. If you are available to help, please stay after Tea Time.

but housing conditions often have not been up to par.

“Housing has been a huge issue for Chinatown, and most people don’t realize that families live in these single-room hotels,” he said. “New York and Chicago tore them down, but here in San Francisco, we tried to save them all because we can’t have single-family homes; there’s not enough space.”

Fong says families can’t find affordable housing in San Francisco, and the housing units are a “last resort.” The Community Tenants Association (CTA) was formed to help provide a voice for low-income housing families. [The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#) provided initial support for the group.

“Residents were being evicted and wanted to come together and form their own association. They were meeting in a small room but kept growing,” he said. “We found a local elementary school that had a huge gym, and we started hosting these ‘Super Sunday’ meetings there.”

The CTA-hosted Super Sunday meetings now attract between 500 and 1,000 Chinatown residents who live in a hotel. Fong says the meetings have engaged youth, seniors and families with “simple, old-school, grassroots organizing.”

“A lot of the residents are immigrants and speak very little English. They felt their voices were never heard,” he said. “They learned to vote, started meeting regularly, and occasionally they receive visits from City Hall. They have become the largest tenant voice in San Francisco.”

The hotel rooms are small, measuring just 8 feet by 10 feet, with no private bathrooms or kitchens. In addition to providing affordable housing, the CTA has worked to upgrade safety, such as the installation of sprinkler systems in many buildings that have experienced fires.

“Commercial businesses usually occupy the first floor of the buildings, with housing above that,” said Fong. “The group has successfully pushed new ordinances to require sprinkler systems by packing out City Hall meetings.”

Fong says every neighborhood should have a regular town hall meeting so the neighborhood

knows what is going on and what issues to engage in.

“It’s kind of cool because it has brought a new diversity to San Francisco. CTA is a very respected voice in the community. The residents have learned there is power in numbers and their voices are being heard,” he said. “Back in 1990, no one was listening to us.

“Now people listen because we’ve come a long way. I’m proud that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) helped to jump-start this group. It’s one of the best things we’ve done to help empower the people.”