



Name in English: Betty Lee Sung

Name in Chinese: 李瑞芳

Name in Pinyin: Lǐ Ruifāng

Gender: Female

DoB: 1924

PoB: Washington, DC

Profession (s): Professor Emeritus, Author, Activist

Education: BA, Sociology and Economics University of Illinois, 1948; PhD, Sociology, City University of New York, 1992

Awards: Phi Beta Kappa, 1948, Pioneer Award, Organization of Chinese Americans

Contribution (s): Dr. Sung was a pioneer Asian American scholar who wrote one of the earliest documentaries (Mountain of Gold) of the history of Chinese Americans. This book generated interest in Asian American studies and she was then selected to develop and Chair the Asian American Studies department at CUNY. After retiring from CUNY, Professor Sung located thousands of files on Asian Americans at the New Jersey Immigration and Naturalization Services [INS] warehouse. With the help of a research staff, they carded and catalogued 581 cartons of records on Chinese immigration records. Combined with a large volume of her own research over the years, she is donating all her research papers and the INS files to the Library of Congress. A spokesman for the Library stated that she is a recognized leading scholar on Chinese American studies and her donated research papers are one of the most valuable collections of original source materials on the subject. She was also an activist who in 1996 organized a protest targeting a NYC Council Member who made disparaging remarks about Asian Americans. Dr. Sung co-founded the Asian American/Asian Research Institute at CUNY. She is a founding member of both the Committee of 100 and the Organization of Chinese Americans.

Publications: Dr. Sung has published innumerable articles and seven books on Chinese Americans including Mountain of Gold (1967), and Chinese American Manpower and Employment, which won an outstanding book of the year award for 1976.