

Published Writers of Rossmoor Featured Author for June 2017 -
Dr. Peter Li

Barbara Kirbach, PWR Publicity Board Member and Featured
Authors Coordinator

Published Writers of
Rossmoor (PWR)
selected Dr. Peter Li
as the Featured
Author for his
chronology
/biography of his
father, Dr. Li Fang-
Kuei, one of the
foremost Chinese
linguists in the
world. The 2017
book, titled "The
Father of Non-Han
Chinese Linguistics Li



Fang-Kuei: A Pioneer in the Study of Minority Languages in
China," will be on display with Li's other writings in the Rossmoor
library in June.

Dr. Peter Li, now Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University, was
born in China but was educated in the United States. He earned
his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1972, and subsequently
taught Asian Studies and Comparative Literature at Rutgers for
three decades. He and his wife, Marjorie, moved to Rossmoor in
2016.

In "Li Fang-Kuei" Li describes the training of a linguist whose
career spanned six decades, from the 1920's to 1987, and two
continents, from China to America. He also describes how his
father's research in American Indian languages led him into the
wilderness of northern Canada, and how his study of Chinese
minority languages in China led to other investigations of spoken

languages of persons living in the border regions of Tibet, Thailand and Vietnam.

Li Fang-Kuei's career as a scholar, linguist and adventurer, from his idyllic years of study in America, through the war-torn years in China, and peaceful retirement in Hawaii, are also detailed by the author. "The book should be of interest to those who want to learn something about linguistics, modern Chinese history and the life and career of an outstanding Chinese American linguist," Li explains. His book is available from Amazon in multiple formats.

Peter Li's writing career is impressive. He is the author, contributor and editor of books and scholarly articles on Chinese literature, culture and politics and Asian-American studies. He was appointed book review editor of the "Journal of Chinese Language Teachers Association." In 1990 Peter, his wife, Marjorie, and Kitty Smith, as first author, published "Understanding Asian Americans: A Curriculum Resource Guide" through Neil-Schuman Publishers.

Peter Li and collaborators, including Marjorie, next focused on the 1991 pro-democracy movement in "Culture and Politics in China: The Anatomy of Tiananmen Square." This book was published in 2011 by Transaction Publishers.

Since 1997, he has been the editor-in-chief of "East Asia: An International Quarterly."

More recent scholarly works include "Japanese War Crimes: The Search for Justice" (Transaction Publishers, fifth printing in 2009); "The Nanking Holocaust: Memory, Trauma and Reconciliation" (reprinted in "Japanese War Crimes", 2009); "War and modernity in Chinese military fiction" (in "Society", 1997); and, "Hirohito's War Crimes Responsibility, The Unrepentant Emperor" (in "Japanese War Crimes", 2009).

In 1996-1997 Peter Li held the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation

Fellowship for “The Life and Times of Lao She: Culture, Art and Politics.”

Since Peter Li’s retirement in 2003, he has been seeking redress for the victims of the Japanese atrocities during the Second World War.