

**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
**Invites you to attend its March 7, 2012 Meeting at the**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich.**

**Johnny Cheung, Chef and Owner**

**Hunan Gourmet**



Johnny Cheung, one of five children, was born in 1959, in the Fujian Province of the People's Republic of China. At the age of seven, he experienced the infamous Cultural Revolution, a socio-political movement set into motion by Mao Zedong, that took place in China from 1966 through 1976. While wages and family earnings were, by our standards, unbelievably low, no one was "poor." All shared the same life, and life was quite good. There were no cars (everyone rode a bike), the streets were very clean, and there was no crime. There was also no possibility of anyone from China ever being allowed to travel to the

United States.

Johnny talks glowingly about his experience in the beautiful city of Hong Kong, which had been under British control. Hong Kong was often described as the city where "East meets West" because of the minimal government which allowed travel into and out of the island. Almost any picture you see of Hong Kong on the web supports his feeling relative to the beauty of the city. Pursuant to an agreement signed by China and the UK on 19 December 1984, Hong Kong became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997. In this agreement, China promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, China's socialist economic system would not be imposed on Hong Kong and that Hong Kong would enjoy a high degree of autonomy in all matters except foreign and defense affairs for the next 50 years.

It was from there that Johnny Cheung was able to head for the United States in 1983, arriving at Kennedy Airport, to begin his life as Restaurateur. He became a US Citizen in 1989, and has spent his years owning and running 13 restaurants, (one at a time), until finally settling on the ownership of Hunan Gourmet at 65 Putnam Avenue. Prior to owning his first restaurant, he did everything that needed doing, from cleaning the bar after closing, to being top chef. His primary function now, other than directing the staff and paying the bills, is opening the doors every morning and making the soup!

His success in the business world of Chinese restaurants can be measured by the fact that he is now Vice President of the Chinese Restaurant Association.

Johnny says that he is living the "American Dream": a beautiful home north of the Merritt, which he designed and which took two years to build, two children (a boy and a girl), and a two car garage. He and his wife also have a beautiful grand daughter living with them.

**RMA members and their guests should arrive by 9:45 AM for our full meeting.**

**The general public should plan to arrive at 10:45 AM.**

**Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich.**

**No Charge and No Reservations are required.**