

## WILFRIDO M. SY, M.D.

Physician Professor, Painter, Author, Art and Culinary Enthusiast

**Q: What made you write the book, “Feng Shui Craps and Superstitions”?**

A: Soon after I retired I thought of writing something non-medical that I have a handle on or know about. I introduced myself to craps years ago through observations, analysis and participation. Eventually I decided to put this experience into words. There are already many books in print about this fascinating game and many good ones at that. I had to give the game a different slant and niche and came up with “Feng Shui and Superstitions”. My family environment gave me some background about Feng Shui having lived and grown up with some of its rudiments along with my additional in-depth research on the subject. I decided to weave this concept into the game of craps along with the superstitions that abound around and surround the table of craps.

**Q: How did you get Donald Trump to endorse your book? What is your connection with Donald Trump?**

A: I was on my second 3-year term as a member of the Board of Directors at the Trump World Tower (TWT) at the United Nations Plaza, in Manhattan. The board was chaired by Donald J. Trump. The Board met quarterly and he was there quarterly and that is how I met him. Since I knew from published articles that he is an avid believer in the practice of Feng Shui, it became natural for me to ask him if he would endorse the book. He asked for a synopsis of the entire book which I gladly provided and he came up with the cover endorsement, for which I thanked him. I have been to his home on 5th Avenue and conversed with him during our annual Christmas parties, but that is the extent of my exposure to him.

**Q: What is the basic philosophy of Feng Shui?**

A: Feng Shui, the two Chinese characters literally mean “wind, water.” The wind distributes and disperses Chi (karma, prana, qi, or energy if you wish) and water is the receptacle to receive it, but it has to be a flowing water. Feng Shui is the harmonious relationship of man with his surroundings, whether this be nature, the home, the workplace and with other human beings or objects. The practice of Feng Shui is not a religion, nor is it science or superstition but it is more of an art. The concept itself is over 4000 years old.

**Q: What is the significance of 888?**

A: The Asians particularly the Chinese consider the number 8 as lucky number because its pronunciation in Chinese rhymes and sounds like the word in Chinese for luck, fortune and wealth, hence you invariably see



the number exploited in various segments of the business world particularly restaurants like Red 8 at Wynn Las Vegas, Amazing 88 and Triple Eights restaurants in Chinatown, New York, to name a few.

**Q: What do you like best about being a member of the Stirling Club?**

A: The Stirling Club is Sterling. I believe it is the only private club in town which offers its members a latitude of amenities. The building itself always leaves an impression especially to a first time visitor, it is auspicious, well-appointed and well-maintained. It offers convenience for dining and entertaining, and now also offers some quality food at competitive prices. The well-equipped health spa and its entire staff are top notch. There are evening activities that appeal to different tastes and these are rendered by pleasant, courteous staff. The Club serves as a focus to meet and have a drink or otherwise engage in conversations with friends or meet new friends.

**Q: How do you like to spend your free time?**

A: I have a diversity of interests which cover a spectrum of subjects like painting, writing, current events, the stock market, football, traveling, and spending time with family, especially my three-year old grandson. I am a self-taught painter and continue to paint (I have actually sold a number of giclees and originals). At present I am involved with ARMTRIT which stands for The American Registry for MRI Technologists and also with Commission on Accreditation for MRI Tech Schools nationally. I chair the quarterly meetings, do the minutes and plan our annual seminars along with the President and board members the future course of the Registry. I am also an ordained minister of Ministry of Humanism and actually officiated my own daughter's wedding.

**Q: Did you always want to go into the medical field?**

A: The short answer to that is YES. Ever since I can remember, I always heard my parents tell their friends that BunPin (my Chinese name or Willy) is going to become a doctor. In Chinese families, to have a doctor in the family somehow adds something to the family name. It is almost an obsession to them. To become a physician was almost inculcated into me by my parents at an early age, but at the end of day it became my decision and I know I made the only choice. I did like to write and did like to draw and paint but I knew I could do these things even if I were a physician but not vice versa. My mother who was a good dressmaker before her marriage used to make my play clothes with doctor's uniforms motif, with band was at the back waist. So with that background and encouragement and with absolutely no regrets I became one.