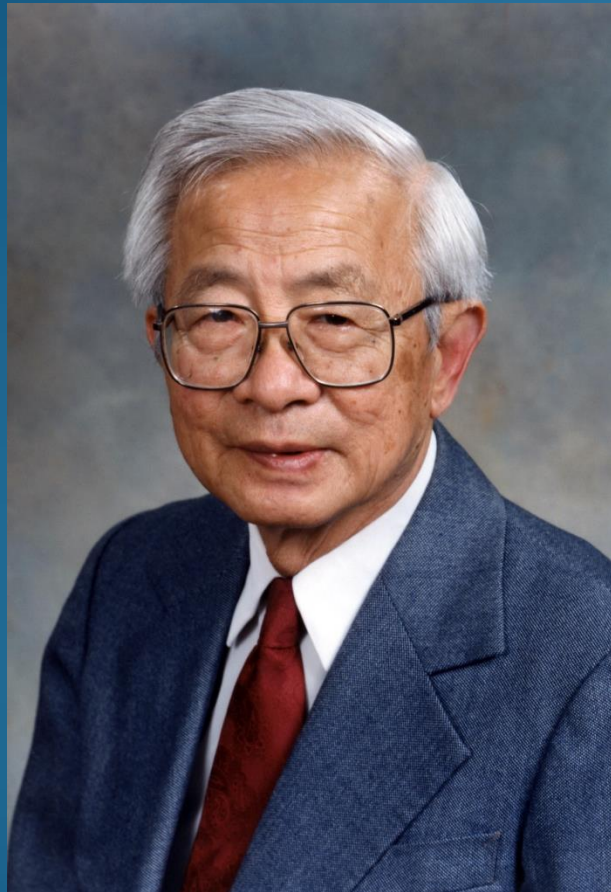


# Rev. Ai Chih Tsai

## Biography and Legacy



**Presented by Peter,  
Whitney, and Bilin Tsai**

**Taiwanese-American  
Historical Society**

**May 17, 2017**

# Biography

- **Born November 1913 in Tainan Province**
  - **8<sup>th</sup> of 10 children of whom 9 survived into adulthood**
  - **Christian family**
- **Tainan Presbyterian High School**
- **Doshisha High School, Preparatory School and Seminary (Kyoto, Japan)**

**1930 Photo at  
Doshisha High School**



# Biography

- **1938:** Traveled to U.S. to continue education
- **University of Chicago Divinity School (graduate degrees)**
- **November 1942:** Ordained and first pastoral appointment
- **December 1942:** Married Ryo Morikawa of San Diego, CA

**1985 Photo of  
Ai Chih and Ryo Tsai**



# Biography

- **April-Sept 1944:**      **Research Analyst and Instructor for U.S. Naval School for Military Government and Administration**
- **Oct-Dec, 1944:**      **Translator for U.S. Naval Military Translation Unit**
- **Feb-Aug 1945:**      **Research Analyst for War Department Military Intelligence Service**
- **Sept-Dec 1945:**      **U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey**
- **Jan-May 1946:**      **Research Analyst for War Department Military Intelligence Service**
- **May 1946-Sept 1947:**      **UNRRA Reports Officer in Formosa**

# Biography

- **1944-1953: Birth of four children**
- **1948: Pastor of the Seattle Japanese Congregational Church**
- **1978: Retirement**
- **Passed away August 1998**

**1957 Photo of  
Tsai Family**



# Guiding Values Ai Chih Tsai's Legacy

**Christian Faith**

**Family**

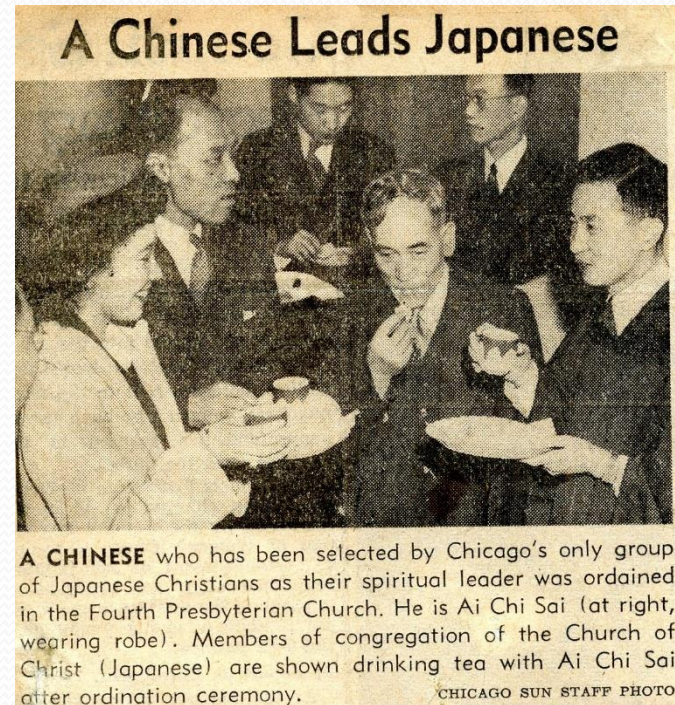
**Education**

**Service**

# Christian Faith and Ministry

- Ai Chih Tsai was raised in a devout Christian family
- November 8, 1942 Ordained as Congregational minister in Chicago
- 1942-1944 Pastor, Chicago Church of Christ (Japanese) at the 4<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church

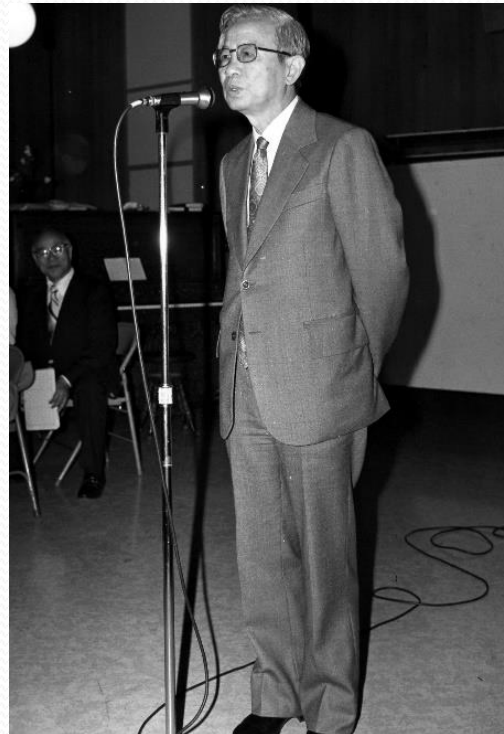
## 1942 Article About Ordination Ceremony



# Christian Faith and Ministry

- **1948-78**      **Pastor, Japanese Congregational Church of Seattle**
- **1969**      **Helped establish the Seattle Formosan Christian Church**

**1979 Photo of Meeting  
of Ministers from Japanese  
Churches in Seattle  
(Domeikai)**





# Family

- December 1942 Married Ryo Morikawa in Chicago
- 1944-1953 Birth of three daughters and one son
- 1978 – 1988 Birth of seven grandchildren

1990 Photo of  
Tsai Family



# Family

- Welcomed and provided a community for many Taiwanese students who came to Seattle to study
- Sponsored some of his siblings and their children to come to the U.S.

**1950's Photo of  
Formosan Student Club**

**(unidentified students)**



# Education

- Ai Chih Tsai's Father's commitment to educating all of his children
  - Post-secondary education in Japan, China, U.S.
  - Several medical doctors and ministers among Ai Chih Tsai's siblings and in-laws
- Educational legacy continued into the next generations

## 1971 Article About Education of Rev. and Mrs. Tsai's Children

### Honor student No. 4 for family

The Rev. and Mrs. Ai Chih Tsai—with a perfect four record—have exhausted their roster of children to receive high scholastic honors from the Seattle Public Schools.

The Tsai's only son and youngest child, Peter, 17, has become the family's fourth child to be named to the school's list of graduating top-ten scholars. He will receive a diploma June 9 from Franklin High School.

Three Tsai (pronounced Sigh) daughters made the honor scholastic list earlier—Bilin in 1970, Bilin in 1967 and Bihou in 1961.

The couple said they did not pressure their children to receive high marks but "expected them to do well." Peter agreed with that assessment.

"They studied and kept up their work," said Mr. Tsai, minister of the Japanese Congregational Church. "We didn't interfere too much."

His wife recalled that "once in a while I'd ask Peter if he had any homework to do." She noted that the children "had good teachers." All went to the Bailey Gatzert School and Washington Junior High School. The girls graduated from Garfield High School. Peter transferred from there to take his last year and a half at Franklin.

With three elder sisters preceding him, did Peter feel compelled to achieve? "I sort of had to live up to what they did," he admitted. "I always came home and asked them for help with my homework. They gave it."

On his last report card, Peter had a 3.97 cumulative grade point average out a possible 4. He received one "97" in a language-arts class.

Peter said he usually did his studying in the afternoon or "right after dinner." That way there was time to play guard with the Garland Flyers, a Nike Veterans Basketball League team.

Peter is a member of Franklin's chess team, which this year won the Metro and state championships and finished 19th in national competition in New York.

Peter said he is "thinking about going into medicine or some related field." He has been accepted at Occidental College in California and at the University of Washington and is on the waiting list at

Yale, his first choice.

The Tsais, 200 17th Ave. S., proudly but humbly noted that Bihou graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, Bilin will receive a degree from the University of Chicago June 12 and will go to graduate school at the University of North Carolina next fall and that Bilin attends the U.W. "We believe in education," Mrs. Tsai said.



The Rev. and Mrs. Ai Chih Tsai and son, Peter.

# War Years: Service to the U.S.

- **As one of very few Formosans in the U.S. before World War II, Ai Chih Tsai had some unique and highly valued skills.**
  - **Proficient in Taiwanese and Japanese as well as English**
  - **Familiarity with pre-war Formosa and Japan**
- **As a result, he was recruited by U.S. Naval and the U.S. War Department for translation, research, map analysis.**

# War Years: Service to the U.S.

**Late 1945 or  
Early 1946 Photo  
with daughter  
BiHoa and  
Lt. George H.  
Kerr (USNR)  
in Washington  
D.C.**



# War Years: Service to the U.S.

**1946 Photo with  
Lt. James T. Watkins,  
IV (USNR)  
in Shanghai**



# Post-War Years: Service to U.S. and UNRRA

- Recruited to join the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey to report on conditions in Japan due to fire and atomic bombs
- Recruited to serve as an United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) Reports Officer

**1946 Photo with  
Allan Shackleton  
and two UNRRA  
Nurses near  
Sin Sin Hotel, Heito**



# Post-War Years: Service to U.S. and UNRRA





# Grateful Acknowledgements

- **Rev. Ai Chih Tsai's letters, documents and writing.**
- **Photos taken by Mrs. Ai Chih (Ryo) Tsai and others.**
- **Allan Shackleton's book, *Formosa Calling*, published by his son, Colin Shackleton, in 1998.**
- **Photos provided by Mr. Colin Shackleton.**

**Thank you!**

Taiwanese American Historical Society  
and Audience members

**Questions?**

Please enjoy the exhibit