



Helen Wong Lum
Chinese American
Tennis Player and Educator

Helen Wong Lum (1931-2015) grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown with six brothers and sisters. She loved all sports but her family could not afford to buy sports equipment. When some people saw how well Helen played tennis at the playground with borrowed rackets, they generously paid for her equipment, lessons, contest fees, and bus rides. Helen won many tennis matches in the 1940s when Chinese Americans and women were not expected to succeed in the sport. Many people helped Helen when she was young. In return, as an adult, she helped many young people as a high school teacher and a college counselor. Helen is in the Northern California U.S. Tennis Association Hall of Fame and is also listed in the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame at AT&T Park.