

NEWS'N NOTES



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Web: www.chssc.org

OCTOBER 2010



CHSSC Annual Summer Picnic - Saturday, August 28, 2010

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance hosted a dim sum potluck at Shadow Park in Cerritos. It was well attended by several waves of members and friends throughout the day.



Photos by O.C. Lee



OCTOBER 2010

Remembering our Ancestors - Sunday, September 4, 2010
Dedication of the Memorial Wall and Meditation Garden,
Los Angeles County Crematorium.



The organizations recognized for their involvement were Boyle Heights Historical Society, Chinese American Museum, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, First Taoist Foundation and Studio for Southern California History.



Gilbert Hom explained the history of the unearthed Chinese cemetery. On hand were dignitaries including County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Assemblyman Mike Eng and others.



Attendees placed flowers on the grave markers after a multi-faith prayer ceremony for the 131 recently reburied ancestors who had been removed from their graves during the construction of the Gold Line.

Board of Directors

Officers

Gordon Hom, President
Susan Dickson, Vice President
Francine Redada, VP for Programs
Winifred Lew, Secretary
Mei T. Ong, Membership Sec.
Dennis Lee, C.P.A., Treasurer

Members at Large

Kenneth L. Chan
Pedro Chan
Albert Chang, MD
Jenny Cho
Henry Leong
Richard Liu
Donald Loo
Eugene Moy
Diane Poon
William Tong

Mission Statement

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November 1975. The purposes of the Society are:

- 1) to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in southern California;
- 2) to pursue, preserve and communicate knowledge of this history; and
- 3) to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



OCTOBER 2010

The Story of Tsinoy *Chinese in the Philippines*

Presented by Susie Ling

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Castelar School
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking - enter via College Street

*The event is open and free to the public.
Refreshments will be served.*



President Corazon Aquino, Cardinal Jaime Sin, and national hero Jose Rizal were all Tsinoy. In fact, about 20% of Filipinos have some Chinese ancestry. As the Philippines is so close to Fujian province, Chinese influence in Filipino culture dates back centuries and is as ubiquitous as pancit and lumpia. The first Spanish-established Chinatown was the Parian, which later became Binondo. These Chinatowns survived through massacres, revolutions, wars, and martial law.

This program is co-sponsored by CHSSC and the Filipino American National Historical Society, Los Angeles Chapter. Susie Ling was born in Taiwan and raised in Los Banos, Laguna. She is Associate Professor of History at Pasadena City College.

Immigration at the Golden Gate:

Passenger Ships, Exclusion and Angel Island

Guest Speaker Robert Barde

Wednesday, November 3, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Castelar School



Bob Barde is Deputy Director of the Institute of Business and Economic Research at the University of California, Berkeley.

His book, *Immigration at the Golden Gate: Passenger Ships, Exclusion, and Angel Island*, was published by

Praeger/Greenwood in March 2008. An earlier version of the chapter on "The Life and Death of the China Mail" won the Kortum Endowment Award in 2004 for Pacific maritime history.

Prior to working on *Immigration at the Golden Gate*, Barde was co-author (with Susan Carter and Richard Sutch) of the "International Migration" chapter in the new *Historical Statistics of the United States, From Earliest Times to the Present, Millennial Edition* (Cambridge, 2006), of which he was also managing editor. He has written on immigration and public health for the *Journal of the History of Medicine*, the *Journal of American History*, and the *Journal of American Ethnic History*; on Asian immigration for *Social Science History*, for the *Pacific Historical Review*, and for *Prologue*, the quarterly publication of the National Archives and Records Administration.



OCTOBER 2010

Michael Bow Lau - Paper Son

Cindy Yee shared this story of her father during CHSSC's "Journey of a Paper Son" event in June.

My father was born in a village named Shan Chung in Chongshan County in 1916. Ma Chi Sang was the oldest son of the second wife of Ma Ying Chan, a very well-to-do merchant of his times. My grandfather who along with several business partners opened the first major retail stores within China and named it Sincere Department. During the turbulent times of China's government changing to communism, my grandfather who was reaching retirement age had saved up enough money – including stocks from Sincere department stores – and purchased over 400 acres of rice fields. Due to his financial wisdom and savings, he was able to provide for his family years after his death. He died when my father was only six. The only department store that survived the communist takeover was located in the British Colony of Hong Kong and it supported my father's family.

When my father was a young man who just completed high school, the partnership that owned the Sincere Department store in Hong Kong along with the rice fields was sold and the money was split among the family members. Meanwhile, my father met and fell in love with a Chinese woman who was American-born and they married. Due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which limited the number of Chinese entering United States, my father used most of his fortune to start a new life by purchasing identification papers for \$5,700. He became a "paper son" and took the name Lau Quin Young, nicknamed Bow Lau. He entered the U.S. in the



late 1930s through Seattle. The rest of his family eventually settled in Hong Kong and relocated to Australia.

After my father was left with a young son to raise, he worked as a merchant marine living on Catalina Island in the Chinese quarters. He was assigned to be the house boy to the admiral on the island and he cared for the admiral's children and learned to cook American cuisine. Because he was so busy, he had to leave his young son on the main land in the care of his wife's family.

After saving enough money, he and his son Edmund sailed to Hong Kong to visit his family. After three dates, he proposed to Betty Yee, who was born in a neighboring village in Canton but had immigrated to Australia as an infant. My mother was attending school in Hong Kong to escape being set-up by her father back in Australia.

After sailing back to the United States, my parents opened a mom and pop grocery store in Los Angeles in the early 50s catering to German immigrants, who lived in the surrounding areas on Hill and 38th streets. During this time, an immigration officer came to our home and my father was found to be a paper son. He was deported and left the U.S. for a day and returned from Canada as Michael Bow Lau.

Michael became a great Chinese and American cook and sold his grocery store in the late 50s and opened a chop suey take-out restaurant called Ho Gang located on Reseda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley. Eventually, my father was offered a partnership at a Chinese restaurant at the Farmers Market, where he worked until he retired.





OCTOBER 2010

Save the Date:
Annual Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Banquet
Saturday, May 21, 2011



龍宮大酒樓
EMPRESS PAVILION RESTAURANT

Cy Wong Receives Governor's Honor Medal



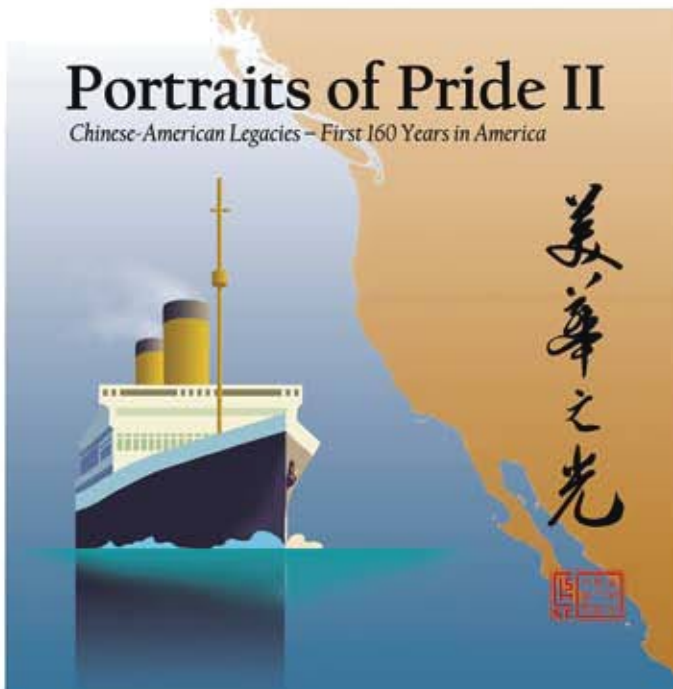
Cy Wong past president of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, 2002-2003, was recently awarded the Louisiana Governor's Armed Forces Honor Medal by Governor Bobby Jindal for service to his country in the United States Navy, 1956-1962.

Wong, served as Seaman 1st class aboard two Attack Troop Transports, the USS Noble APA 218 and the USS Paul Revere APA 248 before he was honorably discharged on June 5th 1962.

The governor stated, "Mr. Wong served with honor." Pictured in the photograph making presentation is Governor Jindal, Cy Wong and Charlie Huggins of the American Legion.

Portraits of Pride II

Chinese-American Legacies - First 160 Years in America



Special acknowledgements to
Wing & Joyce Mar
Albert & Yvonne Chang
for their generous donations
in support of Portraits of Pride II.

Portraits of Pride II is scheduled to be released in early 2011.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Web: www.chssc.org

Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at chssc@hotmail.com

Community Calendar

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 10AM-12PM
Chinese American Museum Education Open House
CAM at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
425 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
www.camla.org

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 7:00pm
The Story of Tsinoys, Chinese in the Philippines
Presented by Susie Ling. Co-sponsored by CHSSC and the
Filipino American National Historical Society, L.A. Chapter.
Castelar School, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sunday, October 10, 2010
Chinese American Family History Conference
8:30am registration; 9:00am – 5:00pm conference
Oakland Asian Cultural Center:
388 9th Street, Oakland Chinatown
Registration is only \$25 online (includes a box lunch!)
and \$15 for students with current ID.
Registration at the door will be \$30 general and \$20 for students.
So sign up early! Space is limited.
For more info and online registration, go to
www.oacc.cc/familyhistory

Monday Oct. 11, 2010 7:00pm
John Jung will present
"Sweet & Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants"
His book is about the history and psychology of the development,
growth & decline of Cantonese based family run restaurants over
the past century.
Cerritos Library 18025 Bloomfield Ave, Cerritos 90703
www.yinandyangpress.zoomshare.com
www.menu.ci.cerritos.ca.us

Wednesday, November 3, 2010 7:00pm
Meet guest speaker Robert Barde author of
"Immigration at the Golden Gate: Passenger Ships,
Exclusion, and Angel Island".
Castelar School, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010 / 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Envisioning America: New Chinese Americans
and the Politics of Belonging
Book Talk and Signing with Tritia Toyota
CAM at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
www.camla.org

Save the Date:
Annual Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Banquet
Saturday, May 21, 2011