

JULY 2010



Descendants of "Paper Sons and Daughters" who attended the film screening of "Journey of a Paper Son".

Journey of a Paper Son

*On Wednesday, June 2, 2010,
the Chinese Historical Society of
Southern California hosted a film screening.*

A man lies dying on a hospital bed. With his children around him, he requests that they change his last name to his real family last name. The children each deal with this truth differently, but all three are shocked to learn that their father came to the U.S. illegally with falsified papers.

In the short film "Journey of a Paper Son" by Ming Lai of Humanist Films, the siblings come to terms with this truth. Lai was influenced to write, direct and produce this film, because of a desire to write a Chinese American story. He pointed out that there are several movies about Chinese

history and Japanese American history -- particularly on the internment -- but very little on Chinese American history.

While Lai is not a paper son himself and the movie is a story on a Chinese American family, Lai points out that it is a universal story -- immigrants trying to be part of America. He put a reference to his father in the movie. Jin says, "50 years of cutting meat, and they cut me." Lai's father started as a butcher when he came the U.S. Lai's father eventually became an airplane technician.

Jack Ong, who stars as the dying father Jin, said the script resonated with him. His own father had brought three paper sons to the U.S. He remembers his parents constantly warning them not to reveal the truth of the statuses of the various "uncles." Before shooting, Ong said he talked to his father's paper sons to get a better sense of their stories. The last of his father's paper sons passed away just before shooting began.

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**Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Board of Directors 2010-2011**

The following were elected at the general meeting of June 2, 2010
which took place at Castelar Elementary School:

Officers

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

Members at Large for 2-year Term

Albert Chang, MD
Pedro Chan
Jenny Cho
Irvin Lai
Henry Leong
Diane Poon

**Members at Large returning for
2nd Year of 2-year Term
(Not for Election)**

Kenneth L. Chan
Richard Liu
Donald Loo
Eugene Moy
William Tong

Board members serve from July 1 to June 30.

The Board of Directors meet on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Board members have opportunities to serve on committees such as the Archive Committee, the Programs Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Outreach Committee, etc. Committees meet at various agreed upon dates and times.

Board of Directors

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

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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.



Continued from page 1

Through the film, Lai hopes that it'll expose more people to the paper sons phenomena and prevent similar events from happening in the future. Another one of the stars on the show, Teddy Chen Culver who plays the son, admitted during the Q&A, "I'm a perfect example of that; I knew very little about paper sons."

Lai said he hopes to get funding to make a feature-length version of "Journey of a Paper Son." A longer film would expand on the father's journey.

When Ong asked for a raise of hands of people who are descendants of paper sons, a large percentage of the audience raised their hands. A few shared their stories too.

Cindy Yee -- who grew up as Lao, but whose real family name was Ma -- recalls coming home one day and learning that her father was deported. He eventually came back legally, and gave his great grandson the opportunity to drop his paper name. The great grandson was given the family's real middle name.

Her father and her eventually visited her father's village in China too. She learned that her grandfather owned a chain of department stores in China, which he sold. Her grandfather used the money from the sale to sponsor several paper sons.

Howard Fong joked that it was difficult to date girls as a paper son.

"The problem with paper sons is when you go on a date with a girl, they ask you, 'Are you really a Lee or a Fong?'"

If you would like to submit your own "paper son" story to News 'N Notes, please e-mail them to CHSSC@hotmail.com.

For more information about the movie, visit www.journeyofaperson.com.



Cast and crew on the set of "Journey of a Paper Son".

Meet Robert Chao Romero

author of

The Chinese in Mexico 1882-1940

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 7:00 p.m.

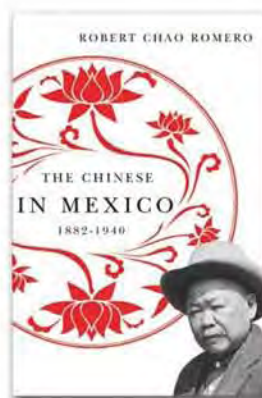
Castelar School

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.*



An estimated 60,000 Chinese entered Mexico during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, constituting Mexico's second-largest foreign ethnic community at the time. The Chinese in Mexico, 1882-1940 provides a social history of Chinese immigration to and settlement in Mexico in the context of the global Chinese diaspora of the era.

Romero's study is based on a wide array of Mexican and U.S. archival sources. It draws from such quantitative and qualitative sources as oral histories, census records, consular reports, INS interviews, and legal documents. Two sources, used for the first time in this kind of study, provide a comprehensive sociological and historical window into the lives of Chinese immigrants in Mexico during these years: the Chinese Exclusion Act case files of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the 1930 Mexican municipal census manuscripts. From these documents, Romero crafts a vividly personal and compelling story of individual lives caught in an extensive network of early transnationalism.

Robert Chao Romero is an Assistant Professor in the UCLA Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies. He received his J.D. from U.C. Berkeley and his Ph.D. in Latin American history from UCLA.



JULY 2010

Chinatown Summer Nights

August 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th



Come to Chinatown Summer Nights every Saturday of August. Starting at 5 p.m., Chinatown will come alive with music, good food and fun activities for all ages.

The evening festivals are a collaboration between Community Arts Resources, CRA/LA, KCRW-FM and local arts and Chinatown organizations.

Visitors, particularly families, can participate in Chinese cultural workshops, like calligraphy or knot making. Chefs will also be giving live Chinese cooking demonstrations too. There will also be salsa and hip hop dance classes in Central Plaza. Live DJs will start spinning at 8 p.m. to get the party started.



There will also be temporary art installations throughout Chinatown to see and a night market featuring local artists and merchants.

Many of Chinatown's restaurants will be open through the evening. Also, several of Los Angeles's popular food trucks will be dishing up their wares for festival attendees. Local bars will have outdoor patio areas set up so you won't have to leave your drink at the door to get back to the outdoor party.

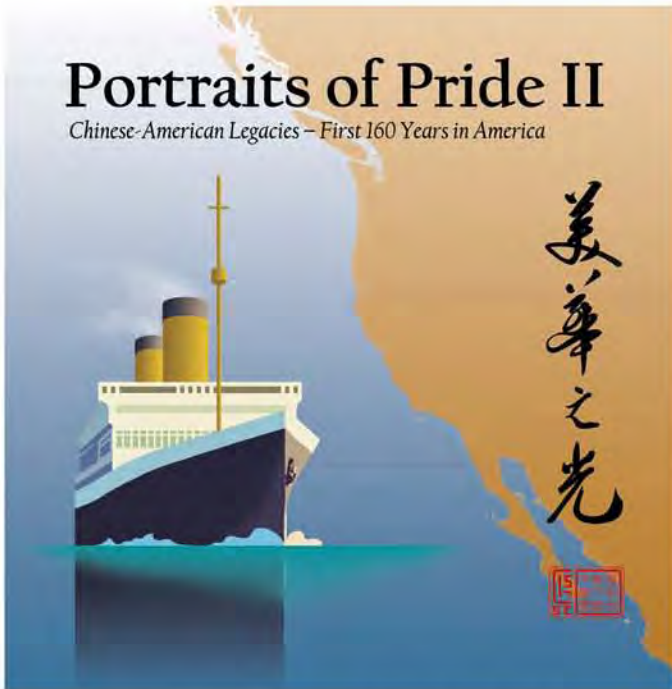
For more information, go to ChinatownSummerNights.com. The August issue of News 'N Notes will also have more information with CHSSC's involvement with the festival.





Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

JULY 2010



Portraits of Pride II:

Chinese American Legacies

-First 160 Years in America- Nears the Finish Line

Marian Chew

Portraits of Pride II is on track for publication around September/October of this year, despite a few personal setbacks by production team members.

Seeing the 300-page, multi-color volume through to completion has been a tremendously enriching experience for the PoP team. Upon reading the book's individual profiles, we are sure you, too, will feel pride at how far Chinese Americans have come—from railroad workers and fishermen, to superstars in athletics, medicine, education and many other fields; and being Nobel Prize recipients.

As Project Manager, I extend my deepest thanks to the many members of the PoP II team—an assembly of champions in its own right. Working with the team—Jason Jem, Randy Bloch and others, at the direction of Editor-in-chief L.P. Leung and project founder Dr. Wing Mar—was also a rewarding experience for me, personally.

The PoP team hopes YOU will also participate in this groundbreaking educational endeavor. Please help us meet our goal of distributing 20,000 copies of PoP II to libraries nationwide by making a donation for this purpose to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Such a donation will help to ensure the Chinese-American legacy of the past 160 years will be forever sustained.

The Annual Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Summer Picnic



Saturday, August 28, 2010

11:00 A.M.



Dim Sum Potluck

Bring your favorite



Shadow Park

Community Club House

12800 Alconbury Street

Cerritos, CA 90703

Sunday, July 18, 2010 1:30 P.M.
FAR EAST CAFÉ REUNION

Experience one of the most favorite restaurants in Little Tokyo. The Proud legacy of Far East Café in Little Tokyo. An Epic saga of Jeong Clan from Hoyping (Kaiping) to Gum Saan (Gold Mountain). A journey in discovery on cultural influence of En To Low. Chop Suey Café 347 East First Street.
RSVP Ray Chong at 510 915-9810 or raychong@prodigy.net
<http://chssc.org.blogspot.com/search/label/Far%20East%20Cafe>

March 28 to July 25 2010

Secrets of the Silk Road – Cost: Adults/\$18 Weekdays; \$20 Weekends/ Students & Seniors/\$16

This landmark exhibition features more than 150 objects relating to all aspects of the people and cultures of the Silk Road during its early period. The legendary trade route linked Xian, the then-capitol of China in the East, to major Mediterranean cities in the West such as Rome and Baghdad.

Bowers Museum Address: 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, California 92706
www.bowers.org/index.php/art/exhibitions_details/35

Saturdays, August 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th 5:00 P.M.
Chinatown Summer Nights

Chinatown comes alive with music, good food and fun activities for all ages. Participate in Chinese cultural workshops, like calligraphy or knot making. Chefs will also be giving live Chinese cooking demonstrations too.

Sunday, August 8, 2010

Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway (2010) National Book Tour
Authors Erika Lee and Judy Yung will join CAM for an intimate talk on this landmark book that provides the first comprehensive history of Angel Island Immigration Station, known as the "Ellis Island of the West."

Chinese American Museum – Los Angeles www.camla.org

Saturday, August 28, 2010 11:00 A.M.
CHSSC Summertime Picnic Potluck

Bring your favorite Dim Sum
Shadow Park, Community Club House, Cerritos, CA

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 7:00 P.M.

The Chinese in Mexico 1882-1940
Meet the author Robert Chao Romero.

Castelar School, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
An estimated 60,000 Chinese entered Mexico during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, constituting Mexico's second-largest foreign ethnic community at the time. The Chinese in Mexico, 1882-1940 provides a social history of Chinese immigration to and settlement in Mexico.

Sunday, September 19, 2010

14TH Annual Historymakers Awards Banquet

Hilton Universal City / Los Angeles Hilton / Sierra Ballroom
555 Universal Drive. Universal City, CA 91608

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

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of Southern California**

