

SEPTEMBER 2012

An Evening with Sonia Mak

Wednesday, September 5, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

*Castelar School, 840 Yale Street,
Los Angeles Chinatown, CA 90012*

*Free parking - enter via College Street.
The event is free to the public.
Refreshments will be served.*

Sonia was a founding curator at the Chinese American Museum, and has worked at LACMA, Autry National Center, L.A. County Arts Commission, and Morono Kiang Gallery. She will talk about her current projects and 'Round the Clock: Chinese American Artists Working in Los Angeles.

John Kwok
Untitled, not dated
gouache on paper board
40 x 30 inches
Courtesy of The John Kwok Family



'Round the Clock: Chinese American Artists Working in Los Angeles presented the work of contemporary artists, George Chann, John Kwok, Jake Lee, Milton Quon, and Tyrus Wong. This exhibition was part of Pacific Standard Time. This unprecedented collaboration, initiated by the Getty, brought together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene

George Chann
Rice Paper Calligraphy, 1970s
sumi ink, watercolor, and oil on rice paper
24 x 30 inches
Courtesy of Janet Chann



SEPTEMBER 2012

Talk Under the Stars with Amy Jin Johnson

On June 20th, Amy Jin Johnson (2011 CHSSC Scholarship recipient) presented the 1892 case of a Chinese woman named Choo Fong. Her story began on November 20, 1892, when she was abducted outside of her home in Los Angeles' Chinatown. Reporting that the kidnapping was the first time a white man had been involved in the abduction of a Chinese prostitute, the Los Angeles Times labeled the incident "the coldest-blooded outrage of its character that has ever been perpetrated in Los Angeles."

The presentation took place at CHSSC headquarters at 411 Bernard Street. It was well attended and was co-hosted by the Studio for Southern California History.



Photos by O.C. Lee

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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.



SEPTEMBER 2012

Chinatown Summer Nights 2012

An exciting hot spot for Angelenos on July 28, Aug. 11 & 25. It was an opportunity to taste the many culinary offerings of Chinatown and LA's gourmet food trucks; sample the neighborhood's wares; watch Chinese chefs perform cooking demonstrations; take part in hands-on, Chinese cultural activities presented by local organizations and museums; and dance in Central Plaza with 89.9 KCRW's DJ's!





SEPTEMBER 2012

Portraits of Pride II - Did You Know?

Judge Delbert E. Wong

DELBERT WONG WAS THE FIRST CHINESE AMERICAN JUDGE AND A DISTINGUISHED REFEREE AND ARBITRATOR, BUT BEFORE HIS LEGAL CAREER, WAS A DECORATED FIRST LIEUTENANT IN THE U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE.

- Delbert received four Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross in World War II for his heroism.
- First Lieutenant Wong was one of three navigators of eighteen in his training class to complete 30 missions over Europe, and the only Asian American of 360 aviation officers.

HIS FAMILY DID NOT SUPPORT HIS CHOICE TO PRACTICE LAW AFTER HIS RETURN TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

- Delbert became the first Chinese American graduate of Stanford University Law School and, later, the second Chinese American lawyer in Southern California.
- After he helped deliver the L.A. Chinatown business community vote, Delbert was appointed a Municipal Court judge by Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown.
- Delbert's presiding judge frequently assigned him cases that were potentially racially volatile, such as a group of Black Muslims charged with engaging in a shootout at a mosque. In a Los Angeles Unified School District desegregation case, Delbert was one of three selected from a pool of 206 judges.



Photo by Jason Jern

DELBERT'S STERLING REPUTATION AS A JURIST PLACED HIM IN GREAT DEMAND AS A REFEREE AND FACT FINDER AFTER HE RETIRED FROM THE BENCH.

- Delbert Wong was active in the National Conference of Christians and Jews, participated in the Boy Scouts of America, and supported the Optimists Boys Home.
- L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley appointed Judge Wong to the seven-member Ethics Commission to draft Los Angeles' first ethics code.
- Delbert and his wife Dolores have been ardent supporters of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and Chinatown Service Center.
- Judge and Mrs. Wong received the Chinese American Museum's Historymakers Award as proponents of volunteerism, education, and literacy in 2002.
- Judge Wong received the Cal State L.A. Pat Brown Institute Lifetime Community Service Award in 1996.

Learn more about Judge Delbert E. Wong by reading pages 79-84 in the Portraits of Pride II book.



SEPTEMBER 2012

H. Res. 683 Passes

Stating "The House of Representatives regrets the passage of legislation that adversely affected people of Chinese origin in the United States....," H. Res. 683 was adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives on June 18, 2012.

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.) and was introduced on June 8, 2012 with 20 co-sponsors. Significantly, while the resolution's text employs the word, "regrets," the stronger "apology" or "apologize" are not used.

Rep. Chu is the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress. On June 18, the day of the resolution's passage, she told her House colleagues: "It is for my grandfather and all Chinese Americans—who were told for six decades by the government that the land of the free wasn't open to them—that we must pass this resolution."

Along the continuum of formalized apologies, the United States has applied various remedies and language to the peoples or groups it felt it had wronged. But the language of apology is a freighted and highly sensitive issue. For example,

to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893 invasion of the Kingdom of Hawaii by the United States, the U.S. offered an "apology" to Native Hawaiians in 1993;

the United States government issued "reparations" totaling \$20K per person to 82,210 Japanese Americans or their heirs;

in the Acknowledgment passage of Rep. Chu's H. Res. 683, the House of Representatives stated it "regrets" the passage of legislation that adversely affected people of Chinese origin in the United States...."

Some of the egregious legislation referenced in H. Res. 683 is the Burlingame Treaty, as renegotiated to limit Chinese immigration to the United States, and the Chinese Exclusion Act in its many iterations.

According to The Los Angeles Times a successful vote came only after Chu revised the Disclaimer specifying that "nothing in the resolution should be construed as claims for monetary compensation . . . or serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States."

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. RES. 683

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JUNE 8, 2012

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life;

Whereas the United States ratified the Burlingame Treaty on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and made China a 'most favored nation';

Whereas in 1878, the House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting that President Rutherford B. Hayes renegotiate the Burlingame Treaty so Congress could limit Chinese immigration to the United States;

Whereas, on February 22, 1879, the House of Representatives passed the Fifteen Passenger Bill, which only permitted 15 Chinese passengers on any ship coming to the United States;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty;

Whereas, on May 9, 1881, the United States ratified the Angell Treaty, which allowed the United States to suspend, but not prohibit, immigration of Chinese laborers, declared that 'Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will,' and reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed 'all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation'; Whereas the House of Representatives passed legislation that adversely affected Chinese persons in the United States and limited their civil rights, including—

(1) on March 23, 1882, the first Chinese Exclusion bill, which excluded for 20 years skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers and expressly denied Chinese persons alone the right to be naturalized as American citizens, and which was opposed by President Chester A. Arthur as incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

(2) on April 17, 1882, intending to address President Arthur's concerns, the House passed a new Chinese Exclusion bill, which prohibited Chinese workers from entering the United States for 10 years instead of 20, required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter the United States to obtain 'certificates of return,' and prohibited courts from naturalizing Chinese individuals;

(3) on May 3, 1884, an expansion of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which applied it to all persons of Chinese descent, 'whether subjects of China or any other foreign power';

(4) on September 3, 1888, the Scott Act, which prohibited legal Chinese laborers from reentering the United States and cancelled all previously issued 'certificates of return,' and which was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty; and

(5) on April 4, 1892, the Geary Act, which reauthorized the Chinese Exclusion Act for another ten years, denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus, and contrary to customary legal standards regarding the presumption of innocence, authorized the deportation of Chinese persons who could not produce a certificate of residence unless they could establish residence through the testimony of 'at least one credible white witness';

Whereas in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for readmission to the United States of Chinese persons who were United States residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, took control of the Philippines, and excluded only the residents of Chinese ancestry of these territories from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas, on April 29, 1902, as the Geary Act was expiring, Congress indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence, to the extent consistent with Treaty commitments;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government withdrew from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, 'without modification, limitation, or condition,' the prohibition on Chinese naturalization and immigration;

Whereas these Federal statutes enshrined in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the democratic process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas in an attempt to undermine the American-Chinese alliance during World War II, enemy forces used the Chinese exclusion legislation passed in Congress as evidence of anti-Chinese attitudes in the United States;

Whereas in 1943, in furtherance of American war objectives, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress repealed previously enacted legislation and permitted Chinese persons to become United States citizens; Whereas Chinese-Americans continue to play a significant role in the success of the United States; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal: Now, therefore, be it Resolved,

SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

That the House of Representatives regrets the passage of legislation that adversely affected people of Chinese origin in the United States because of their ethnicity.

SEC. 2. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed or relied on to authorize or support any claim, including but not limited to constitutionally based claims, claims for monetary compensation or claims for equitable relief against the United States or any other party, or serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States.



SEPTEMBER 2012

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Headquarters 411 & 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles Chinatown



Referred to as the Fritz Estate, it consists of two nearly identical Queen Anne style cottages at the north end of Los Angeles' Chinatown. 411 was built in August 1886, 415 was later built in May 1892. Philipp Fritz, a carpenter by trade, apparently acted as his own contractor in the construction of the houses. Fritz emigrated to America in 1873, presumably to work and save money to bring his wife and three sons over, which he eventually did in September 1884. Philipp Fritz worked for many years as a carpenter for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He and his wife Louise lived at 411 Bernard Street from the time of its completion until their deaths. In 1995, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California purchased the property from the estate of Louise Whiting, granddaughter of Philipp Fritz. The two houses are remarkably intact examples of late Victorian working class residential design. Most of the original architectural detailing has been retained, both externally and in their modestly appointed interiors. The structures are unique in that they represent the work of a single builder, they were occupied for over 100 years by the same family and for 86 years by the same woman. The houses represent rare examples of their type.



These two treasures need continuing maintenance and restoration. The structures are in dire need of refinishing and painting, and the driveway is in need of repaving. We are seeking vital funds to help in the preservation of our precious home. Please consider making a donation, your contributions can be sent to:

CHSSC
411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Or stop by and visit to experience our home first hand.
Please call in advance (323) 222-0856





The Chinese Interest Group of the Southern California Genealogical Society announces the:

家譜

Writing Family Stories *Fall Workshop Series*

*Supported by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California:
Bob and May Wong Fund and the Friends of the Chinatown Library*

****Would you like to preserve the stories you have uncovered while doing research
on your family's history and experiences?***

****Are you interested in writing your own life story
for future generations?***

4 Saturdays: Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8, 2012 **Time:** 10 am to 1 pm

Location: Chinatown Branch, Los Angeles Public Library
639 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, tel. (213) 620-0925

Instructor: **Judy Soo Hoo**, MFA, Creative Writing, UC Riverside, and PEN Emerging Writing Fellow. Her play Taking Flight: The Katherine Cheung Story is part of the East West Players' Theatre for Youth Program in 2012.

Workshop Description: This is a continuation of the Spring 2012 workshop series, however previous attendance is not a requirement. Continuing students may concentrate on their family story or personal memoir and will be given critiques and guidance to improve their writing. Both continuing and new students may work on writing exercises in and out of class to gain tools and skills to write interesting stories that future generations will want to read.

****Bring paper and pen, a notebook/ journal. If you write on a laptop, bring that to the workshop.**

Space is limited to only 12 participants, register today.

To secure your space, you must register prior to the first meeting.

Please register with Bo-Gay Tong Salvador at bosalvador@gmail.com or 310-339-0337 with your name, home mailing address, telephone # and email address. Registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. An email confirmation of your registration will be sent to your email address.

The Chinese Interest Group of the Southern California Genealogical Society's focus is on gathering information and resources to assist those on a quest to trace their Chinese and Chinese American ancestors. Most meetings are held on the third Saturday each month. For further information contact Bo-Gay Tong Salvador, or see the Genealogical Society's website:

<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com

Website: www.chssc.org

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

Community Calendar

Wednesday, September 5, 2012 7:00 pm

Evening with Sonia Mak - Sonia was a founding curator at the Chinese American Museum, and has worked at LACMA, Autry National Center, L.A. County Arts Commission, and Morono Kiang Gallery. She will talk about her current projects and 'Round the Clock: Chinese American Artists Working in L.A. Castelar Elementary School

www.chssc.org www.facebook.com/groups/chssc
chsscorg.blogspot.com/

Friday, September 21, 2012 6:00 pm

OCA-Greater Los Angeles 21st Annual Image Awards

The Westin Bonaventure Yellow Tower, Catalina Ballroom
404 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

Honoring Tyrus Wong - *Artistic Achievement*

State Senator Ted Lieu - *Political Achievement*

UCLA Labor Center - *Community Achievement*

McDonald's Corporation - *Corporate Achievement*

www.oa-gla.org

Friday, September 21, 2012 5:30 pm

Salute to the Flying Tigers Veterans & Families

Invited Honorees: All WWII AVG, 23rd Fighter Group, 14th AAF, CNAC, ATC, Hump, BI and/or their Family Members

Organized by: Flying Tigers Historical Organization (FTHO) and Chennault Aviation & Military Museum

sponsor 10 seats per table. Ind. ticket is \$1,000, \$500 and \$100

Golden Dragon Restaurant 960 N Broadway, Los Angeles, CA

90012 All checks payable to Flying Tigers Historical Organization and send to:

c/o Pedro Chan, 5266 E. Pomona Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022.
(323) 721-0774.

Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012

16th Annual Historymakers Awards Banquet

Honorees:

Tom McKernan & The Automobile Club of Southern California

- *Excellence in Corporate Leadership Award*

Carl K. Moy, MD

- *Excellence in Medicine and Community Service Award*

State Senator Carol Liu - *Excellence in Government Award*

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

- *Dr. Dan S. Louie, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award*

Latham & Watkins, LLP

- *Judge Ronald S.W. Lew Visionary Award*

5:00 pm President's Reception & Silent Auction

6:30 pm Dinner & Awards Program

The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites

404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

www.camla.org/

Saturday, October 20, 2012

The Chinese American Interest Group is newly formed and will begin meeting in 2012. The formation of this group is an out-growth of a group which has been meeting informally for the past year. Our focus is on gathering information and resources to assist those on a quest to trace their Chinese American ancestors, with special attention to the impact on family histories of the Exclusion Act (1882-1943) and restrictive quotas which did not change until the late 1960's.

Southern California Genealogical Society

417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91504-2408

818-843-7247 or scgsgenealogy.com