

APRIL 2015

The Impact of the 1906 Earthquake on San Francisco's Chinatown



Presentation by Erica Y. Pan, PhD

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.

Castelar Elementary School
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

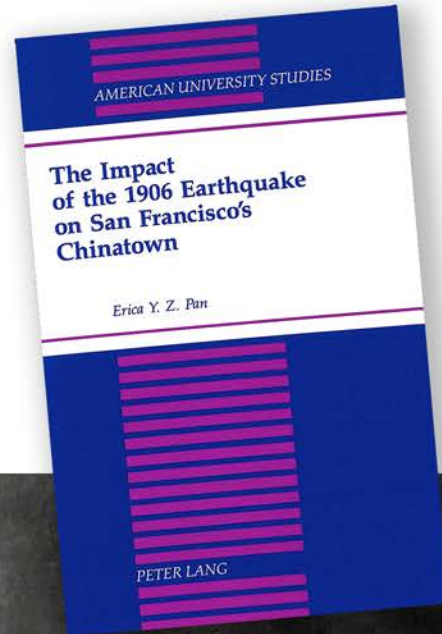
Free parking - enter via College Street

Refreshments will be served

This event is free and open to the public

The 1906 earthquake and fire completely destroyed San Francisco's Chinatown. The anti-Chinese forces in the city, which had made repeated attempts to remove Chinatown from the center of the city in the late 19th century, regarded the demolition as a godsend. Despite all the odds posed by discrimination and disaster-related shortages, the Chinese community courageously held their ground that they had every right to rebuild where they were before the earthquake. The reconstruction was a landmark in the history of San Francisco's Chinatown.

Erica Y. Pan earned her Ph. D from Brigham Young University in 1992. She has been a high school teacher with Los Angeles Unified School District since 2005, working with students with special needs. A National Board Certified teacher, she takes an active part in promoting education reforms and exploring ways to motivate students. She and her husband have two daughters.



Onlookers watch the fire after the 1906 earthquake. No one knows how many people died in the densely packed blocks of Chinatown, which had an estimated population of 14,000 at the time of the disaster.

Arnold Genthe/Library of Congress



APRIL 2015

Tribute to Donaldina Cameron

CHSSC in partnership with San Francisco Chinatown Cameron House (CH), paid tribute to a woman of great courage and perseverance. For forty-three years (1895-1938) Donaldina Cameron gave herself unstintingly to the often dangerous challenges and changing needs of the Chinese Presbyterian Mission Home at 920 Sacramento Street, San Francisco.

Motivated by her Christian faith, she rescued and saved thousands of Chinese girls and young women. With "a high, merry heart," Donaldina literally broke into brothels, raced down dark passageways, discovered trapdoors and hidden rooms, doing everything she can to rescue helpless Chinese girls who were being enslaved for prostitution. These girls were then taken to 920 Sacramento Street, now Cameron House, where they trained for a new life.

The CHSSC-CH joint tribute was held in Pasadena Presbyterian Church, followed by a visit to Donaldina's final resting place in Evergreen Cemetery. While at Evergreen, CHSSC members make their annual visit to the Chinese Workers Shrine to pay their respects. Read more about Donaldina Cameron and Cameron house at www.cameronhouse.org.



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.



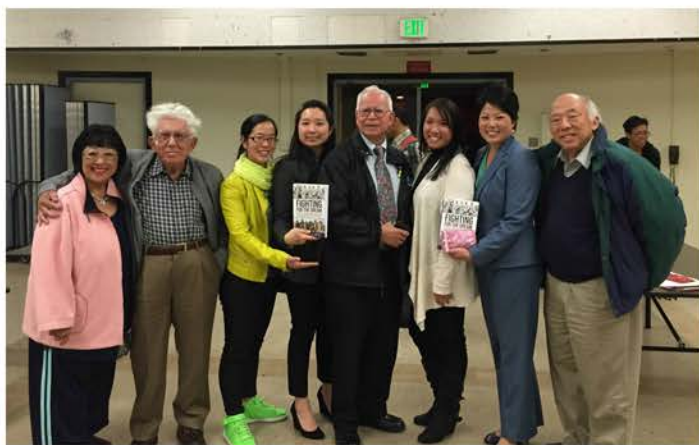
APRIL 2015

Fighting for the Dream

*Voices of
Chinese American Veterans
from World War II to Afghanistan*

Special thanks to author Victoria Moy, and veterans Michael Chan and Janet Chin, for taking the time to share their stories. Ms. Moy shared the story of her grandfather who fought in WWII, and the inspiration for *Fighting for the Dream*.

With the lost opportunity to document her grandfather's complete story while he was alive, Moy ultimately found her purpose to preserve the memories of the Chinese Americans who stood and fought for their country. Following her book talk, there was a panel discussion featuring Michael Chan and Janet Chin who spoke of their own experiences in the military, why they joined, and how they are able to use their time in the military to create a better life for themselves and others. The stories between Moy, Chan, Chin, as well as fellow veterans in the audience, were enough to fill another book. This event proves that there are more stories out there that need to be told. By capturing some of these stories in her book, Moy shows us through the experiences of others that there are some dreams worth fighting for. For your own copy of *Fighting for the Dream*, see the next page for additional information.





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Fighting for the Dream

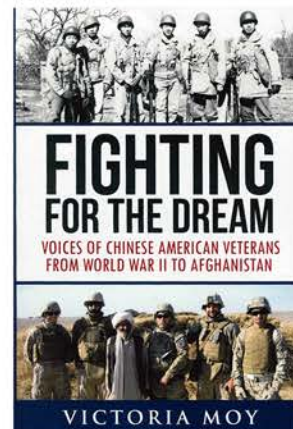
Voices of Chinese American Veterans from World War II to Afghanistan

Author Victoria Moy brings together a collection of oral histories from 40 Chinese American men and women—ages 24 to 94—who served in wars from World War II to conflicts in Afghanistan. These individuals defied boundaries, went against their cultural grain, and changed history. Through their personal stories, we see a greater tapestry that is the story of America in the last hundred years, from the lens of Chinese Americans who served. We see also how different wars affected the Chinese American community.

This collection includes interviews with the first Asian American general (John Fugh), the first Asian American Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy (Frederick Pang), the first Asian American full unrestricted Marine (Kurt Lee), the first Asian American National Commander of the American Legion (Fang Wong), the first Asian American judge in New York State (Randall Eng), as well as some of the 20,000 Chinese Americans — a quarter of the Chinese American population at the time — who served during World War II.

Fighting for the Dream is now available on Amazon for \$21.14.

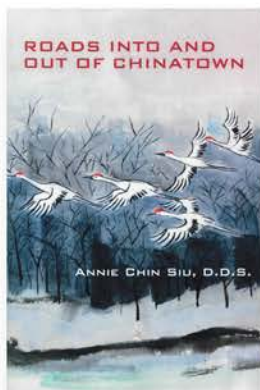
For additional information on the book and future events please visit fightingforthedream.com or facebook.com/fightingforthedream.



Roads Into and Out of Chinatown

by Annie Chin Siu, D.D.S.

This book tells the remarkable story of Annie Siu. She is not only a pioneering orthodontist; she was an Asian American leader before the San Gabriel Valley was a thriving Asian American community.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

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APRIL 2015

Save Our Riverside Chinatown Committee's Chinese New Year Celebration

CHSSC was a proud sponsor of Save Our Riverside Chinatown Committee's Chinese New Year Celebration / Fundraiser at the Riverside City Hall on February 21, 2015.

Why celebrate? It is a celebration of change. The City's elected leadership is now supportive of a Chinatown Heritage Park, as proposed by Save Our Chinatown Committee on the historic site of Riverside's Second Chinatown. The site, which still contains valuable archaeological resources, has been recognized at the local, regional, state, and national (National Register of Historic Places) level. Recently, the Riverside City Council made the decision to approve the medical office development, which had been threatening to destroy the archaeological site, to be located at an alternate site more than a mile away. This change came about through constant dialogue with the political leadership and community leaders to conceive of a tangible plan for Chinatown Heritage Park. Seven years ago, the city would have turned down our efforts, but has since turned around completely, and the future is looking bright.

It was a good evening to be updated on the current status and see some architectural concepts for the proposed Chinatown Heritage Park. We enjoyed musical entertainment, competed for items in both a silent/live auction, and were in good company. The fact that this event was allowed to be held at City Hall, is a significant reflection of the City's change in political direction. Learn more about Chinatown Heritage Park and the Save our Chinatown Committee, by visiting www.saveourchinatown.org.





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 6:30pm

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Saturday, April 25, 2015 7:00pm

Highlights from The Peony Pavilion

USC Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

(626) 449-2742

The museum will present highlights from one of the best known works of Kun Opera, The Peony Pavilion, based on a play written by Tang Xianzu of the Ming Dynasty. The nationally renowned artist Wang Fang will perform with other members of the Suzhou Kunqu Opera Theatre. The Kun Opera is a national treasure in China and listed in 2001 as one of the culture protected by UNESCO. This program is sponsored by the Chinese Consulate of Los Angeles. Q&A and reception follow the performance.

Free for members of USC PAM at any level, and Chinese American Museum members at the Advocate Level or higher

Saturday, April 25, 2015 10:00am-2:00pm

**Writing Our Family Stories- A 4-hour Workshop
with Jeanette Shelbourne,**

Chinese Family History Group of SoCal

Location: The Chinese American Citizen's Alliance (C.A.C.A.)

415 Bamboo Lane, Chinatown, Los Angeles, CA 90012

www.ChineseFamilyHistory.com

cfhgsc@gmail.com

Save The Date

Saturday, October 17, 2015

The 40th Anniversary Banquet

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

Golden Spike Awards