

NOVEMBER 2015

From Chinatown to Christ and Back:

How a Christian Educator Became Interested in Chinese American History and Community.

Presentation by Jonathan Lew, Ph.D.

Thursday, November 5, 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



Dr. Jonathan Lew is a native of Los Angeles and current resident of Chinatown. His parents, Chong and Isobel Lew, have been longtime members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, having joined within the first two years of the Society's existence. As a boy, he accompanied his parents on field trips that CHSSC sponsored to various sites throughout California where the Chinese had settled. In honor of

CHSSC's 40th Anniversary, Jonathan will speak about the lifelong impact of those field trips, his exposure to the Chinese American and Asian American communities, and learning his own family's history. He will also discuss how his Christian faith has nurtured his interest in the Chinese American experience and led him to move back to the City of Los Angeles as an adult and make Chinatown his home.

Jonathan grew up originally in Los Angeles, in the Los Feliz neighborhood, and later moved with his parents and sister to Orange County where they settled in Fullerton. His father, Chong, grew up in South Los Angeles in the East Adams neighborhood, attended Belmont High School and Cal State L.A., and worked for many years for the Los Angeles Times and later in commercial real estate development and property management. Chong's account of his parents' laundry business is captured in a chapter entitled "Son of a Laundryman" in the CHSSC publication, *Bridging the Centuries: History of Chinese Americans in Southern California*. Jonathan's mother, Isobel, was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, in a small Chinese immigrant community there, which is described in a book by Denise Chong entitled *Lives of the Family: Stories of Fate and Circumstance*.

Jonathan earned his B.A. in Economics and Government from Claremont McKenna College, a M.A. in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis in Christian Education from Biola University, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Higher Education from Claremont Graduate University. He has worked in higher education for more than 20 years, including at such institutions as The Claremont Colleges, Azusa Pacific University, and the University of California at Irvine. Jonathan is currently the Associate Director for Research Administration at the Travis Research Institute in the School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. He is a member of First Chinese Baptist Church of Los Angeles in Chinatown, where he serves as a Sunday School teacher for young adults and adults.





NOVEMBER 2015

The 40th Anniversary Celebration

October 17, 2015

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) 40th Anniversary Celebration recognized the three founders and the 106 individuals who joined as Charter Members between November 1, 1975 and December 31, 1976. These individuals championed the creation of CHSSC, and many more continued contributing to its mission through the planning and participation in seasonal dinners, field trips, publications, educational programs and recreational activities. Pioneers in their own right, these members collectively blazed a path for the Chinese American narrative.

Although it was unscripted, it was no surprise. Eugene W. Moy, CHSSC Charter Member, CHSSC past president, and current president of C.A.C.A. Los Angeles Lodge, was summoned to the stage by Event Chair Rick Eng to receive a Golden Spike presented by Eugene's wife Susan Sing, witnessed by their son Bernie Moy.



Past Presidents and family representatives of CHSSC.

Photos by O.C. Lee

Board of Directors

Officers

Donald Loo, President
Winifred Lew, Vice President
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Helen Quon, Secretary
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Linda Bentz
John Chan
Rick Eng
Kelly Fong
Gilbert Hom
Henry Leong
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Eugene W. Moy
Shirley Chu Ng

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.



Charter Members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California with their Spike Driver Awards.





Past President and current Membership Secretary Susan Dickson addressing attendees.



Acceptance of Recognition from Congresswoman Judy Chu.



The national anthem led by Jack Ong.



Award of appreciation given to L.P. Leung.



Eugene W. Moy accepting the Golden Spike Award.



Rick Eng and Simon Chhuor wishing a happy birthday to Assistant Administrator Vincent Huynh.

Photos by O.C. Lee



NOVEMBER 2015

October 20, 2015

To the CHSSC Board of Directors, Dinner Committee, 40th Anniversary Planning Team:

Congrats on the great success of the 40th Anniversary Dinner held at the San Gabriel Hilton on Saturday, October 17, 2015, to honor the 106 charter members who were instrumental in establishing CHSSC in 1975. By far, this was one of the very best celebrations presented by CHSSC, due in most part to the diligence, energy, and extraordinary planning put forth by all involved. What a team!!

Fenton, you and your crew did a masterful job on the "iron hammers", which have a rugged but classy look, due to your unique designing ability. Putting the hammers together required a fair amount of skill, and a large amount of good old-fashioned "elbow grease". A job well done!

Rick Eng, you and your team did a great job of tracking the 106 charter members, and processing the interviews. This line of action involved much time and energy. Sadly, many of these members could not be located, or perhaps are no longer with us. But, Rick you certainly did your best!

So, a heartfelt thanks to all involved in this successful event, which proves again that a great team of Board of Directors and CHSSC members, we are indeed getting BIGGER and BETTER!!

Warmest regards to All.

Margie Lew
Charter Member #58



The Spike Driver Award

Our 3 founders and 106 charter members came together with a common purpose and goal. This goal was to seek, preserve, and share the history of Chinese in America and we continue to fulfill this purpose four decades later.

To commemorate their work, we honored each charter member with a personalized spike driver with their name engraved. We chose the spike driver because of its symbolic significance to the Chinese American community. Similar to the Chinese railroad workers who laid the tracks that served as the foundation for transportation in the U.S., the Charter Members laid the foundation of our organization; a solid 40 year old foundation. Funded generously by an anonymous donor, we were proud to present our Charter Members and their families with this award of appreciation.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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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

Thursday, November 5, 2015 - 6:30pm

NOT THIS WEDNESDAY

From Chinatown to Church and Back:

*How a Christian Educator Became Interested in
Chinese American History and Community.*

Castelar Elementary School

840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Jonathan Lew, PhD gives a personal talk about how he became interested in Chinese American history, starting with his family background and his parents getting involved in CHSSC in the early years, and how his Christian faith has nurtured that interest.

Saturday, November 7, 2015 10:00am

Vietnamese Focus: Generation of Foodies Free Admission

Old Orange County Courthouse

211 W Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana, California 92701

Get to know the people behind the delicious food at these popular and unique restaurants and concepts! You can listen to their life stories and join the conversation in the Q&A session. Following each panel, you can taste a sample of what makes their food special.

Saturday, November 21 to March 21

Y.C. Hong: Advocate for Chinese-American Inclusion

1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108 West Hall of the Library "During Hong's lifetime, he facilitated and worked on at least 7,000 immigration cases," said Li Wei Yang, curator of Western American History at The Huntington and curator of the exhibition. "The exhibition will give visitors a rare and comprehensive view of the life and career of a legendary lawyer who advocated relentlessly on behalf of Chinese Americans striving www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/exhibitiondetail.aspx?id=20332

Saturday, November 21, 2015 - 10:00am to 12:00noon

The Chinese Genealogy Book : Presented by Doug Joe

Chinese Family History Group of Southern California

415 Bamboo Lane

Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Chinese Genealogy Book (Jiapu 家譜 (family) /Zupu 族口 (clan) is the Holy Grail of Chinese genealogy. It contains the written lineage of your ancestors frequently going back hundreds of years. Doug will share his experience in searching for, understanding the contents, its purpose in village life, and how to interpret this precious resource. Despite Chinese genealogy being patrilineal, he has worked out ways to tease out the female side of the family using this book.

Saturday, November 21, 2015 - 1:45pm

China Society of So. Cal. 80th Anniversary Luncheon

Empress Pavilion, 988 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA

Cost - \$50 per person, deadline to purchase ticket is November 19 @ 5:00 p.m.

William F. Hummel and Peter Soo Hoo are co-founders of The China Society of Southern California. Clayton Dube, Director of USC US-China Institute, will be the keynote speaker. This Institute investigates the China Society that was formed in 1935 and its relationship to Los Angeles, China, and the changing times of the last eighty years. To purchase tickets, go to <http://chinasociety.brownpapertickets.com/> . Physical tickets will not be issued. Your name(s) will be on a list at the check-in table at Empress Pavilion. If you do not use the computer, you may send check payable to China Society, to Yvonne, 3625 Shoreheights Drive, Malibu, CA 90265, 310-454-3621.