

SEPTEMBER 2015

## Isles of Gold: Chinese Abalone Harvesting on California's Channel Islands

Presentation by Linda Bentz

Wednesday, September 2, 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



Linda Bentz will present an illustrated presentation of her recent archeological study on Chinese abalone harvesting camps on the Channel Islands. This archeological research revealed that beginning in the 1850s, Chinese abalone fishermen developed an intensive commercial fishery focused on abundant black abalone stocks on the Channel Islands. These fishermen systematically harvested and dried tons of abalone meat and shells from intertidal waters and shipped their products to markets in mainland China and America. This work was important as Chinese participation in the fishing industry represented an era when California fisheries became a crucial part of globalized food and shell exports.



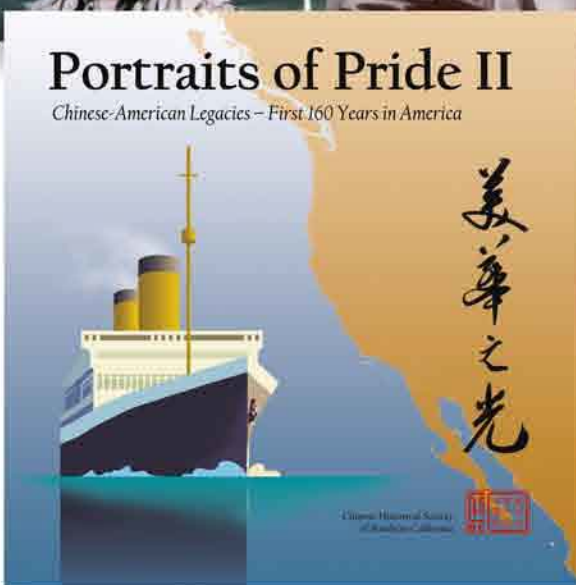
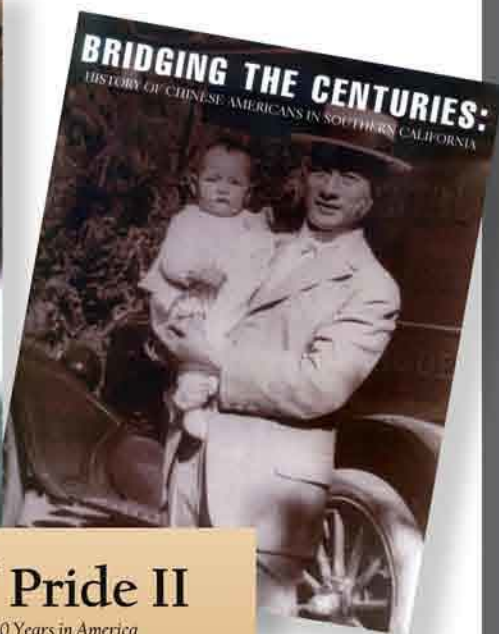
Linda Bentz is a graduate student at San Diego State University. She has studied four historic Chinese communities: Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Barbara, and Cambria. Working with the National Parks Service and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary she investigated the presence of Chinese abalone harvesters on the Channel Islands. Chinese fishermen, California-built Chinese junks, and Chinese American women and families are among her research interests. Linda researched and wrote the script for the documentary, *Courage and Contributions: the Chinese in Ventura County* and has published essays in books, journals, and newsletters. She is currently on the CHSSC Board and the historian for the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society. In 2012, she and co-author William Gow completed a book about Chinese communities in Ventura County, *Hidden Lives: A Century of Chinese American History in Ventura County*. Mrs. Bentz has four sons and lives with her husband in San Pedro.





## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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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.





## The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on Saturday, October 17, 2015

- The 40th Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Hilton of Los Angeles/San Gabriel Hotel, located 225 West Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91776.

- The theme of the dinner is "Looking Back, Moving Forward: CHSSC at 40," inspired by Susan Dickson in her examination of Gum Saan Journals.

- The focus of our celebration is based on the four "P": people, place, programs, and publications. People: we're saluting the three founders of the Chinese Historical Society (Paul Louie, William Mason and Paul DeFalla) and the 106 Charter Members who joined in the period between November 1, 1975 and December 31, 1976. Place: the Chinatown Heritage Center was purchased twenty years ago and has served as the headquarters of CHSSC since. Programs: Golden Dragon Parade (Chinese New Year); Ching Ming, Golden Spike Awards, genealogy workshops; monthly speakers at Castelar, Chinatown tours. Publications: publications produced by CHSSC can be considered not only the biography of Chinese Americans in Southern California, but also the life of the Society. News 'N Notes is the monthly newsletter of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Gum Saan Journal is the semi-annual and annual publications that feature a range of scholarly explorations of the historical, cultural and humanistic aspects of Chinese American experiences, particularly relating to Southern California, and popular writing on contemporary issues of relevance to the Chinese American community.

- The dinner will salute those Charter Members special award recognition.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Table sponsorships—the dinner brochures identify six sponsorship levels.

Congratulatory ad/message—do you have a special message for the Chinese Historical Society at 40? Or, for Charter Members? Provide an ad for the event program book or CHSSC can create a special graphical message for you for inclusion in the program book. Details are in the dinner brochure.

Centerpieces—decorative centerpieces for the dining tables can add celebration and sparkle to the event venue. Consider sponsoring the centerpieces and receive public recognition in print and during the presentation. Contact Fenton Eng for more information.

Silent Auction and Raffle Items—please consider donation items for our silent auction and raffle. The Auction and Raffle co-Chairs Marian Chew and Helen Quon have written a special request:

We need your help with donation of items for our Raffle and Silent Auction. All donated items must be valued at \$15 or more. Some examples are: gift certificates, tickets to events, small appliances, gift sets or gift baskets). With dinner brochure in hand, you can ask the businesses you frequent to sponsor a table, buy an ad for the dinner program, or donate their merchandise for our gift baskets. Your help is much appreciated!



Yes, we will support the  
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California as a:

☐ **Diamond Sponsor \$5,500**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Diamond Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- History Panel Sponsorship (CHSSC Timeline display)
- Reserved PREMIER VIP Tables for twenty (20) at the dinner
- Full-page ad (Back Cover) in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Web Banner with link to Company Website
- Recognition in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Special Stage Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Platinum Sponsor \$4,500**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Platinum Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- History Panel Sponsorship (CHSSC Timeline display)
- Reserved PREMIER VIP Table for ten (10) at the dinner
- One Full-page ad in the 40th Anniversary Program
- Web Banner with link to Company Website
- Recognition in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Special Stage Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Gold Sponsor \$4,000**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Gold Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Reserved PREFERRED Table for ten (10) at the dinner
- One Full-page ad in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program Book
- Web Banner with link to Company Website
- Recognition in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **VIP Reception Sponsor \$3,000**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as VIP Reception Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Reserved Table for ten (10) at the dinner
- Recognition in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Silver Sponsor \$2,000**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Silver Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Reserved Table for ten (10) at the dinner
- Recognition in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Entertainment Sponsor \$1,500**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Entertainment Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Reserved Table for four (4) at the dinner
- Recognition in the 40th Anniversary Banquet Program
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Individual Ticket**

- Member Rate Ticket \$125
- Non-Member Rate Ticket \$150

☐ **Ad/Congratulatory Message**

(Deadline: October 1st, 2015. File Type: JPEG, 300 dpi)

- Back Cover \$1,000 – 8 1/4" w x 10 3/4" h
- Inside Cover \$750 – 7" w x 10" h
- Full Page \$500 – 7" w x 10" h
- Half Page \$300 – 7" w x 5" h
- Quarter Page \$250 – 3 1/2" w x 5" h
- Business Card \$100 – 3 1/2" w x 2" h

- ☐ I/we will not be able to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by October 3, 2015 and email  
Table Guest list to CHSSC @hotmail.com.

Remit form and submit payment to:  
CHSSC 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Credit Card payment can be phoned in to 323-222-0856  
or mailed to above address.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax I.D. # 95-3155357





SEPTEMBER 2015

# Sing Peak Pilgrimage

by John Chan



It was my first time traveling to Yosemite National Park and my first time being a part of the annual CHSSC Sing Peak Pilgrimage. Being an Asian American Studies major, I have never learned about this famous Chinese cook named Sing—how he helped with the formation of the National Forest Service and with the acquisition of the Yosemite National Park. Hearing about this extraordinary individual, I had to partake in this four-day event. Also, it was a nice little getaway from the city. I have learned that the Chinese immigrants had contributed to the development of California in such areas as economy, infrastructure, services and many more. But I have never heard of their indirect contribution to the Yosemite National Park. Over the course of four days I had the opportunity to walk the same path as some of these early Chinese and learn more about their achievements. During the pilgrimage, I got the chance to hike the Tioga Road trail that leads up to an old abandoned silver mine. The road leading to the mine was built by Chinese immigrants. During this hike, I was able to walk in their shoes and get a glimpse on the types of conditions they faced during this project.

I haven't had the opportunity to hike the Sing Peak. For one thing, I'm a city slicker without the knowledge to survive the outdoors or the right gears to do so. Maybe next year, I will have that chance with some experience under my belt. Another reason for my being a part of this pilgrimage was my family history dates back to around the same time as Tie Sing. I wanted to be able see, feel, and understand the hardships that they faced to survive—taking on any potential jobs available to them no matter how difficult—in order to send money back to China to support their family.







## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

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### Community Calendar

**September 4 – September 6, 2015 4:00pm-1:00 am**

**626 Night Market**

285 W Huntington Dr, Arcadia, California 91007

The original and largest Asian-themed night market in the United States, 626 Night Market features over 200 food, merchandise, crafts, arts, games, music, and entertainment attractions in one jam-packed weekend of festivities that appeals to all ages. 626 Night Market aims to unite and empower the community by serving as a platform for showcasing local entrepreneurs, businesses, artists, and talent.

**September 6, 2015 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm**

**Interactive Learning Station: Ancient Arts of China**

Bowers Museum

2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Please join an expert docent for a 30-minute Interactive Presentation on the art objects and culture of the Ancient Arts of China exhibit. Expand your knowledge, learn the history, ask plenty of questions about the artifacts, and discover much more. Included with museum admission. Presented by the Bowers Docent Guild

**Saturday, September 12, 2015 10:00am to 12noon**

**Hidden History by Ruthanne Lum McCunn**

CACA

415 Bamboo Ln, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ruthanne Lum McCunn has uncovered several stories about the Chinese American experience, and has retold those stories in such a brilliant way. She will present the story about Asians and Pacific islanders participation in America's civil war.

**Sunday, September 20, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Autumn Moon Festival**

At Bowers Museum Sponsored by The Nicholas Endowment Celebrate the tradition of the Autumn Moon Festival - bringing families and friends together. View the art work of 300 children ages 5 – 15 and adults in the community. Face painting, art projects, music and lion dance ongoing throughout the afternoon. Presented in partnership with Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA) and the Nguoi Viet Daily News, Festival of Children Foundation, and the Chinese Cultural Arts Council. The Autumn Moon Festival is sponsored by The James Irvine Foundation. - FREE

## Save The Date

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

**The 40th Anniversary Banquet**

Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California