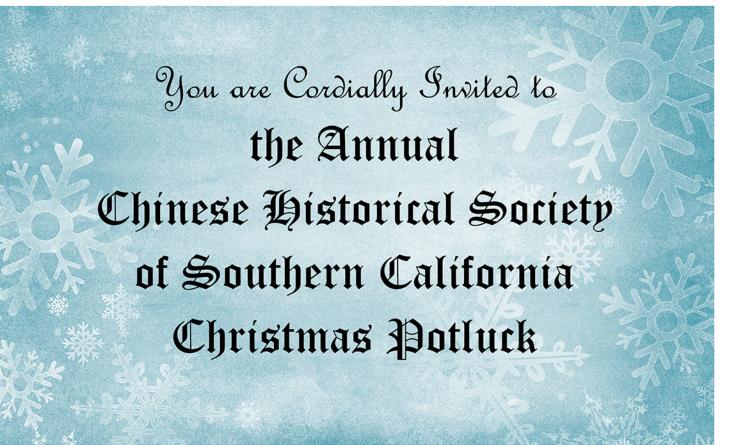


411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com Website: www.chssc.org

#### **DECEMBER 2016**



Wednesday, December 7, 2016 6:30 p.m.

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

Free parking - enter via College Street

This event is open to the public.

Bring your favorite dish or \$5 for admission, children are free.

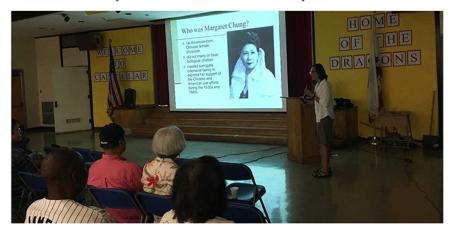
Bring your whole family. Sing Christmas carols along with other fun activites. Catch up with fellow members and friends. Don't forget to purchase Christmas gifts from our selection of fine publications and of course, renew your 2017 CHSSC membership.



#### **DECEMBER 2016**

## Dr. Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards

For our November monthly meeting, we were honored to be joined by Professor and author Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, PhD. Professor Wu spoke about the woman who was the inspiration for her biography, Dr. Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards: The Life of a Wartime Celebrity, and what compelled her to share this story. Dr. Margaret Chung was the first Chinese American Woman to become a doctor in the United States, and her life spanned the late Victorian era to post WWII era. Becoming a doctor as a Chinese American woman was an extraordinary feat given that, during that time, Victorian women were expected to stay home and medicine was a male-dominated profession. She embraced Western medicine and graduated from USC College of Physicians and Surgeons. In the 1920s, she went on to open one of the first western style medical clinics in San Francisco's Chinatown. Dr. Chung never had biological children or her own family. In support of the Chinese and American war efforts during WWII, Dr. Chung opened her home to soldiers, movie stars, and politicians to socialize and show support for the Allied cause. In the process, she created her own interracial surrogate family, in which she was known fondly as "Mom Chung". This surrogate family included many famous figures such as Ronald Reagan and Helen Hayes. Through her many interactions with her "adopted children" and members of the community, she became a hero in her own right by raising funds for the war efforts during WWII. Her mother, Ah Yane or Minnie Chung, was one of the 9,000 Chinese women who immigrated to the U.S., in 1874, prior to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion act. She was rescued and placed in the Cameron house in 1880. Her father, Chung Wong arrived in 1875 and became a merchant in Santa Barbara. Through her talk and her book, Professor Wu shows why there needs to be a biography of Dr. Margaret Chung. It allows us to "reexamine history (1882-1959) through an individual life" and understand social history, ethnic studies, women's studies, and sexuality studies and their importance to our society. Dr. Margaret Chung's entire life was one of overcoming boundaries and setting new paths for Chinese American women, as well as, minorities in the U.S. To get the full story on Dr. Margaret Chung and Professor Wu's book Dr. Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards: The Life of a Wartime Celebrity is available on Amazon at a reduced price.



## Meeting Sponsorship

Thank you to longtime CHSSC member and friend, Susan Sing, for sponsoring our November monthly meeting. Your generous gift will ensure that CHSSC will continue to provide free monthly programs.

#### Message for future potential sponsors:

The CHSSC has and always will provide free programs to public. In the past, we have been able to account for our venue expenses through donations from our members and agreements with the leadership at Castelar. But due to measures from the school district, the CHSSC will have to incur an extra expense of 117.87 per meeting. To help subsidize these extra expenses, we are now giving our members and their businesses a chance to sponsor a meeting. A donation of \$100 is requested to sponsor a meeting. All donations are tax-deductible, and sponsors will be acknowledged in the following month's newsletter with their name or business logo. We appreciate your understanding and we hope to see everyone at our next meeting.

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

Gordon Hom, President
Linda Bentz, Vice President
Winifred Lew, Secretary
Simon Chhuor, Treasurer
John Chan, VP for Programs
Susan Dickson, Membership Sec.

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Rick Eng
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Helen Quon
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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.

#### **DECEMBER 2016**

Dear friends of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California,

As the year closes, my task as the CHSSC Membership Secretary begins in earnest. We appreciate your previous generous support of CHSSC by joining our organization. We want to encourage you to renew your membership to support the mission and programs of CHSSC. The membership fee includes the receipt of our monthly newsletter, News 'N Notes, our yearly Gum Saan Journal, and discounts on our publications and products.

CHSSC has been one of the most active community organizations in Los Angeles Chinatown. It holds monthly meetings throughout the school year that are free to the public. As an educational organization, volunteers, as well as staff, conduct walking tours and attend local conferences. Our outreach also includes scheduling talks at surrounding venues and supporting local organizations. CHSSC continues to collect oral histories and other information about the history of the Chinese in America. At our annual fund-raising dinners we recognize and honor, with the Golden Spike Awards, exceptional accomplishments of Chinese Americans, organizations and institutions in Southern California: we have honored our community leaders, pioneering businesses of New Chinatown who continue to serve the community, and veterans who have offered their lives for the protection of the nation and its citizens.

This August we celebrated 41 years of accomplishments and comraderie. As we look forward, CHSSC needs to expand our vision. In the past, we have only been able to fund CHSSC through special donations from those committed to our mission. Therefore, I am hoping that in addition to your support through membership, that you will also consider giving a donation this year to support our mission.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Dickson

Membership Secretary

Susan B. Dickson

Please Renew Now!
Your Membership Now!
Your Membership Now!
Renew online! www.chssc.org/join/membership.aspx

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- 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.



# Chinese Historical Societyof Southern California



## Membership

#### Silver

Monthly newsletter.
Free Gum Saan Journal.
Discount on field trips to historical sites.
Discount on publications and products.
Admission to Heritage Center during non-public hours (call in advance)

#### 100 x 100 Club

All benefits of Silver membership. Invitation for 2 to special events.

#### Diamond

All benefits of 100 x 100 Club membership. 2 complimentary tickets to Annual Gala Dinner.

#### Student/Senior (60+)

All benefits of Silver membership.

□ New Membership □ Renewal		Chinese Historical Society
Name		of Southern California 411 Bernard Street
Address		Los Angeles, CA 90012
City		Phone: 323-222-0856
State Zip		Email: chssc @hotmail.com
Phone ()		Website: www.chssc.org
Email		Make checks payable to CHSSC
Visa/MC #		We are a 501(c)3
Expiration Date		non-profit organization, tax ID: 95-3155357
Signature		10x 1D. 73-3133337
		I am interested in helping with:
☐ Silver	\$ 57.	☐ Programs
☐ 100 x 100 Club	\$ 100.	☐ Publications
☐ Diamond	\$ 300.	☐ Research
☐ Student or Senior (60+)	\$ 32.	☐ Publicity
Donation (tax deductible)	\$	☐ Fundraising
Total	\$	☐ Other

#### **DECEMBER 2016**

## Notes on Chinese American History

A monthly column about Chinese American History by CHSSC member, William Gow.

While archives are often thought of only as official collections held by institutions such as the Huntington Library or UCLA, perhaps the most important archive for conducting Chinese American genealogical research is the family. Like traditional archives, individual family members save artifacts from the past as ways to remember their own lives and those of their relatives. Items people save include letters, diaries, immigration records, photos, personal keepsakes like watches or jewelry, and of course memories. These items are most likely not maintained anywhere else and are the first place that you should turn when conducting your family history research. While it might be easy to focus only on the items themselves, I would encourage genealogists to think about what the items mean in relationship to each other and what the collective contents of a given family archive can tell us about the mindset of the person or people who put the archive together.

Photos albums are a prime example of this. Most families and individuals have family photo albums. In the recent past, before the advent of digital technology made it possible to save nearly every photo a person has taken, individuals had to decide not only which photos to take but also which ones to keep. As such family photo album nearly always provide a wealth of information about the person who put the album together. With this in mind you can begin to look at family albums not only for what individual photos tell you but also for what the album as a collection tell you about the person or people in your family who put the album together. When looking through a photo album you might ask yourself: In what order are the photos displayed? Which photos are place next to one another? What types of photos have been saved? Are there photos from particular moments in a person's life that are overrepresented in the album? Which family member or friends are included in the photo album and which ones are left out? Each photo in the album has been save and placed in the album for a reason, and the presence and absences in the album are as important as the content of the individual photos.

In an earlier column, I relayed the story of my great-aunt who had saved a photo of her father, my great-grandfather, and I told how this same photo also appeared in a Chinese Exclusion Act case file held at the National Archives. While the individual photo was the same in both places, one could argue that the fact that the photo was kept by my great-grandfather and then passed on to his youngest daughter, was evidence of an emotional attachment my great-grandfather must have had to the photo. While the exact type of emotional attachment he felt is now lost, the photo's presence in my great-aunts collection tells us things that the photo's presence in the national archive does not. As such, I would encourage you to use items in a family archive as a starting point either for formal oral history interviews or for informal conversations about your family's past with the person who hold's the collection. This technique can be especially useful, when you are able to talk to the relative who put the collection together. Even if your relative did not put the collection together on her own, she still can tell you her memories of the person who did. Because of this, even in cases where a family member was given the collection from another relative, physical items can often be a great place to begin a conversation about your family's past. For these reasons, your family's archive should be the starting point for your genealogical project.

William Gow is currently a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, where he is writing a history of Los Angeles Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s. He has been a CHSSC member for more than a decade. He invites feedback, suggestions, or questions about the column and his academic work. William can be reached by email at wgow@outlook.com



# New Chinatown, China City, and Hollywood Cinema:

An Oral History of Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s

Do you have memories of Los Angeles Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s?

Have you heard stories from parents or relatives from the period?

Would you like to have your oral history archived at UCLA's Center for Oral History Research?

Graduate student William Gow, working with faculty advisor Professor Shari Huhndorf, is looking for community members to participate in recorded oral histories as part of his dissertation research in the Ethnic Studies Department at UC Berkeley. If you are a US-born adults who has memories about the Chinese American community in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s, or if you are an adult who has heard stories about the Chinese American community directly from those who lived in Los Angeles in these decades, you may qualify to take part in this project.

To find out more information, email William Gow at williamgow@berkeley.edu or call William at 310-795-4730.



## 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**

#### Monday, December 5, 2016 China Society of Southern California

Gardens, Art, and Commerce in Chinese Woodblock Prints by June Li, Curator Emerita of Huntington's Liu Fang Yuan Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 N. B'way, LA Chinatown \$20, pay at the door, RSVP Bob Lee 213-284-4438 rsvp@chinasocietyofsocal.org

#### Now through December 2016 Music at Huntington Library and Gardens There's something in the air in Liu Fang Yuan 流芳園, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance.

Music! enjoy the sounds of traditional Chinese music Every Wednesday afternoonfrom 1 to 3 p.m. in the garden. A different solo musician will perform each week, playing unamplified melodies on classical instruments including the dizi 笛子, pipa 琵琶, erhu二胡, yangqin 楊琴, guzheng 古箏 and guqin 古琴. Let the music transport you to another time and place as you stroll through one of the most magical landscapes. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino, CA 91108 (626) 405-3503

#### Now through Monday, Jan. 9, 2017 Chinese Woodblock Prints Exhibit

Boone Gallery Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108 (626) 405-2100

#### Now through June 4, 2017 Chinese Snuff Bottles from Southern California

from nine private collections in Southern California, the snuff bottles shown in this exhibition represent an extraordinary variety of materials. These bottles reflect themes from history, mythology, poetry and prose, and religion. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) 5905 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90036 Hammer Building, Level 2

#### **End of Year Giving**

As the year of 2016 is winding down, the CHSSC is already planning for next year's activities. The CHSSC continues to operate on the contributions of our members and supporters, and we would greatly appreciate it if you keep us in your thoughts if you are considering donating to a charity this holiday season. Your donation will go towards our programs, facility improvements, staff and ultimately our mission to seek, preserve, and share Chinese American History. Thank you for your time and we are wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.