

JULY 2016

4th Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage

*100th Anniversary Celebration
of the National Park Service
and Honoring Chinese Americans in
the Development of the Sierra Nevada*

July 22nd - July 27th, 2016

For more information, please visit
www.chssc.org/Events/Pilgrimage.aspx

The National Park Service is celebrating its 100th Birthday this year. Help commemorate the contributions of Chinese in building many of the roads and railways through the Sierra Nevada range, in working in historic lodges, lumber industry, and in the development of our National Parks.

July 22



National Park Ranger Yenyen Chan will lead a hike to May Lake which includes the original Tioga Road built by Chinese road builders in 1883.

July 23

Historical presentations.

July 24

Tours and walks in Yosemite Valley.

July 25-27

Hike to the top of Sing Peak.



Sing Peak in Yosemite named after Tie Sing, a Chinese American camp chef who played an essential role in the creation of the National Park Service.



Asian America - The Ken Fong Podcast

At our last meeting, Rev. Ken Fong shared with us anecdotes about his family, his life, his church, and his work in the Asian American community through the "Asian American Podcast". Rev. Fong began with stories of his own family's journey from China to America and how his father fought in WWII. Rev. Fong explores the issues and topics at the forefront of the Asian American community on his Asian American Podcast. Every week, Rev. Fong interviews prominent figures in the Asian American community to explore topics ranging from culture, art, history, and spirituality and these interviews are available now at asianamericapodcast.com/

If you enjoy Asian American Podcast, please show your support by rating it on iTunes. The meeting was a great success met with positive comments and response. A great way to leave off for the summer.

Although we will not have monthly meetings for July and August, the CHSSC will continue to host our annual Pilgrimage to Yosemite and Sing Peak from July 22 – July 27. And on August 27, 2016 we will have our annual Golden Spike Awards fundraiser (see next page for more info).



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.

Members at Large

Teresa Chung
Rick Eng
Kelly Fong
Gilbert Hom
Richard Liu
Donald Loo
Franklin Mah
Eugene W. Moy
Helen Quon
Anthony Tjio

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.



2016 Golden Spike Awards

Each year, CHSSC recognizes the pioneers, players and purveyors of our history with the Golden Spike Award, named for the ceremonial spike that signified the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad across the United States. The five recipients of the 2016 Golden Spike Awards are institutions that contribute precious chapters to our unique American epic by their direction and purpose. They deserve to be crowned the designees of this year's award theme, "Stewards of Our History."

California State University, Northridge, Asian American Studies Department, Chinatown Service Center, Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee, Friends of the Chinatown Library and UCLA Asian American Studies Center differ in scope and function and yet they share the common resolve to nurture, inform and engage.

Last year, CHSSC's multi-generational family of supporters gathered to celebrate a major milestone: the 40th Anniversary of the Society's founding by honoring the first 106 Charter Members who paved the groundwork for growth and achievements such as the establishment of the Chinese Cultural Heritage Center in 1995 in the heart of Los Angeles Chinatown.



With your generous and ongoing support, CHSSC has been able to offer free, public, monthly meetings with speakers and programs related to Chinese American and community history; safeguard of one of the largest collections of Chinese American archaeological artifacts in the country; and mentor through scholarships and internships the future leaders of cultural history. The community respects CHSSC, as demonstrated by the use of our growing research library, expansion of our catalog of publications and when its flag-carrying members and supporters open the local Chinatown New Year Parade.

Please join us for the celebration of this year's stellar company of Golden Spike recipients at the awards ceremony and luncheon and ensure CHSSC continues to have a leading voice in highlighting the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California.

The event will be held Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the Hilton of Los Angeles San Gabriel located at 225 West Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91776. \$75 per person (CHSSC members, or tickets purchased before Wednesday July 13, 2016); \$100 per person (non-members). For individual ticket and table ordering, please contact CHSSC offices at (323) 222-0856 or email chssc@hotmail.com. The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax I.D. # 95-3155357



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Golden Spike Awards Luncheon

Stewards of Our History

Saturday, August 27, 2016 – 11:30 am

Hilton Los Angeles/ San Gabriel 225 West Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91776

In Recognition of

California State University, Northridge, Asian American Studies Department

Chinatown Service Center

Friends of the Chinatown Library

Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee

UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Please reserve ___ tickets @ \$75 per person (members or tickets purchased before Wednesday July 13, 2016),
___ tickets @ \$100 per person (non-members), OR

I wish to be a: ☐ Jade Table Sponsor \$750 (Table of 10) ☐ Gold Table Sponsor \$1,000
(Table of 10 + Full Page Ad
in Program Booklet)

Sponsor Name _____

Please list guest names: _____

☐ I want to donate raffle item(s): Please call me at () _____

☐ I want to place an ad in your event program. Please call me at () _____

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

Your donation will go towards supporting the CHSSC's mission to seek, preserve, and share the history of Chinese in America.

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

VISA/MC Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Total Contribution \$ _____

RSVP by August 19, 2016 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



Notes on Chinese American History

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

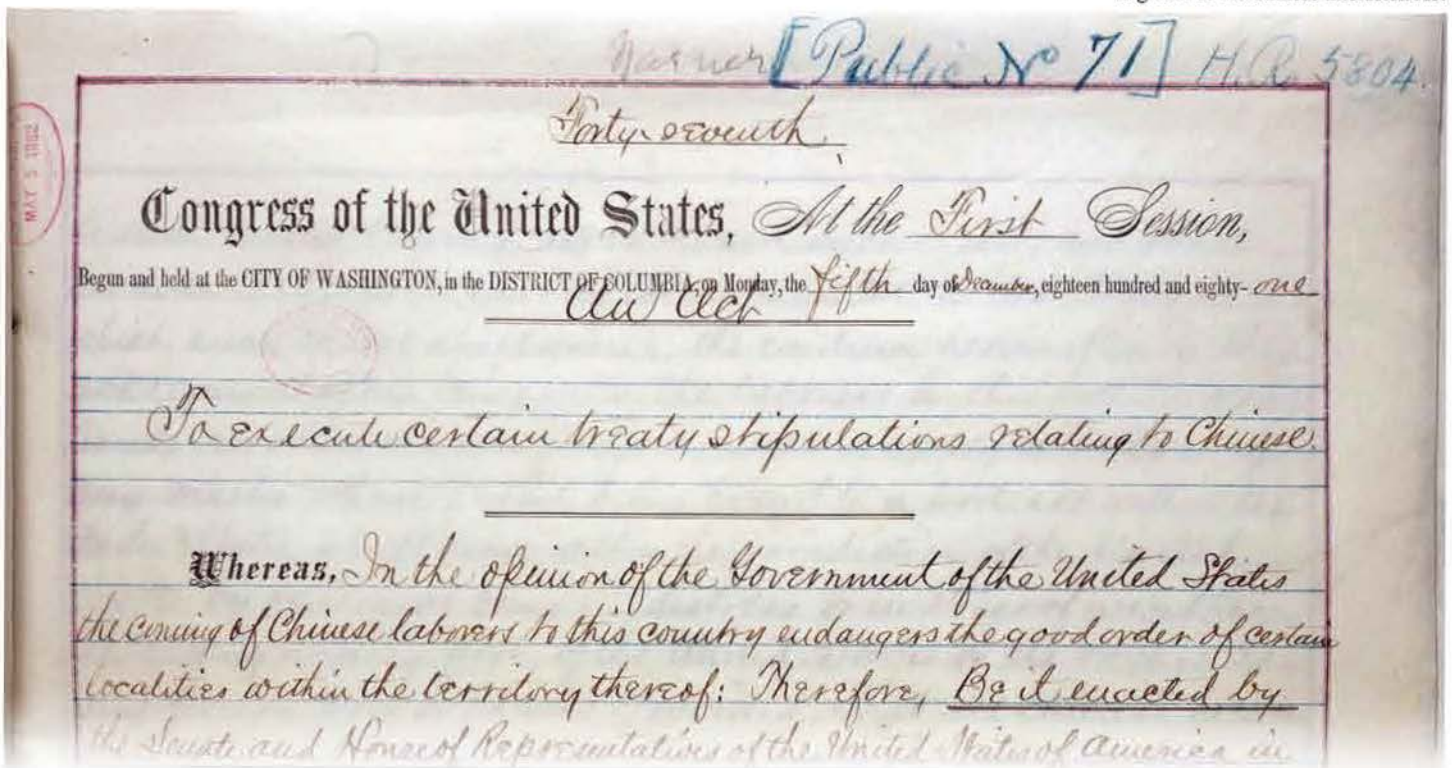
I spent eight years of my life serving as a high school and middle school history teacher in California's public schools. As a former history teacher, I have always been interested in the ways in which Asian Americans enter into the state's school curriculum. It should go without saying that history as a discipline is not simply a record of events that happen in the past, but rather a selective representation of those prior events. The stories we choose to tell about the past include implicit arguments about whose history is important to be remembered and which groups we as a society find worthy of study. In California, the topics covered in our state's history classes are dictated by the state content standards. Theoretically these standards guide what historical content is taught in classrooms beginning in kindergarten and continuing on until senior year of high school.

Asian Americans in general and Chinese Americans specifically do not have a prominent place in the school curriculum. Currently in the state standards, most of the focus of Chinese Americans comes in the fourth grade standards on California history. Here the state standards mention both the Chinese work on the transcontinental railroad and the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Yet, in US history, which is taught in the fifth, eighth, and eleventh grades, Chinese Americans are not mentioned at all in the state standards. At the time of this writing, California is in the process of revising the standards for the first time in more than a decade. The committee tasked with revising the state standards has already solicited public comments for the second draft of the standards earlier in the year, and state is set to officially release the new standards sometime later in 2016.

In the latest draft of these standards, Chinese Americans are now included in frameworks for US history in both the eighth and eleventh grades. In the proposed eighth grade standards, there is mention of the role Asian farmers and farm laborers played in the development of farming throughout the state. The draft of the eighth grade standards also includes mention of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and the detention of Asian immigrants on Angel Island. The proposed eleventh grade standards now mentions the Asian American Movement of the 1960s. While these changes have yet to be adopted, it appears as if the new state standards will include more places where Asian American history in general and Chinese American history specifically is included in the state's US history curriculum. This is, of course, a welcomed improvement.

At the same time, the standards remain grounded in top down factual knowledge, which does not allow as much room for individual students to determine the direction of the content as it could. As an educator my own favorite projects were always those that involved oral history with ones relatives or that asked students to place their own families and communities within the frameworks adopted by the state. It is important for all students, but in particular students of color like Chinese Americans, to see that history is not something that happens outside of themselves but rather to understand that history is something that we as individuals and communities have the ability to influence everyday of our lives.

Segment of the Chinese Exclusion Act





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

Saturday, May 7 to Sunday, September 4, 2016

Cave Temples of Dunhuang - Buddhist Art on Silk Road

The Mogao Grottoes, located near the town of Dunhuang in the Gobi Desert of northwest China, comprise some 500 decorated Buddhist cave temples dating from the 4th to the 14th century. Filled with exquisite wall paintings and sculptures, the caves bear witness to the intense religious, artistic, and cultural exchanges along the Silk Road, the trade routes linking East and West. Featuring numerous objects originally from the site—such as paintings and manuscripts that have rarely, if ever, traveled to the United States, as well as three spectacular full-size cave replicas. The exhibition celebrates more than 25 years of collaboration between the Getty Conservation Institute and the Dunhuang Academy to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Getty Museum 1200 Getty Center Dr Los Angeles, CA 90049 (310) 440-7300

Thursday, July 14, 2016 7:30pm

Summer Moonlight: Wu Man and Yu Hongmei

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, Center for East Asian Garden Studies
Rothenberg Hall 1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino, CA 91108
Internationally acclaimed pipa virtuoso Wu Man returns to The Huntington for a musical evening with master erhu soloist Yu Hongmei of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. The pair will explore the history and character of their respective instruments through performance and discussion.

Tickets: \$15.00; reservations required.

This performance was made possible by the Justin Vajna Memorial Fund for Educational Programs in the Chinese Garden.

Saturday, July 16, 2016 & Saturday, August 20, 2016

5:00pm – midnight

Chinatown Summer Nights

Part food event, summer party, Chinatown Summer Nights presents an exciting hot spot for Angelenos. Taste the many culinary offerings of Chinatown and LA's gourmet food trucks; sample the neighborhood's wares; watch cooking demonstrations; dance the night away with 89.9 KCRW's DJs and LA Weekly Live Music Stage!

Central & West Plazas

943-951 N. Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012

July 21 - 27, 2016

2016 Pilgrimage to Yosemite National Park

For more information, please visit

www.chssc.org/Events/Pilgrimage.aspx

Save The Date

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

2016 Golden Spike Awards

Hilton Los Angeles/San Gabriel

225 West Valley Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA 91776