

NEWS'N NOTES



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

JUNE 2016



Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 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. Ken Fong will be joining us at our next meeting to talk about his life, church, and "Asian America: The Ken Fong Podcast". Similar to CHSSC's oral history projects, Dr. Fong is doing his part to preserve the voices of Asian American pioneers, by interviewing them through his podcast. On "Asian America: The Ken Fong Podcast", Dr. Fong has interviewed documentary filmmaker Arthur Dong, author Lisa See, renowned actress Nancy Kwan, and many more. We invite our members and friends to join Dr. Fong in conversation about the Asian American identity and his experiences with other pioneers in the community. To learn more about Dr. Fong, and listen to his podcast and interviews, for free, please visit asianamericapodcast.com

Ken spent the first half of his life in NoCal, growing up in Sacramento and graduating with a biology degree from Cal ('76). But since 1978, when he moved south to finish his seminary degree at Fuller Theological Seminary (MDIV '81; DMIN '90), God's Spirit has grown Ken into an occasionally wise, hopelessly innovative, and—some would say—courageous pastor of an English-only, multi-ethnic, mostly Asian American, multi-generational church. He's served on numerous boards, including those of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA, Westmont College, and the Asian American Drug Abuse Program. He was the primary Bible expositor for Urbana 2000 (where he addressed 20,000 people for five days) and was personally invited by former Pres. Jimmy Carter to preach at his Baptist summit in Atlanta. He wrote "Pursuing the Pearl," one of the first books to forecast the future of Asian American churches, is a daily Face Book contributor, and since May 2015 has been the host and co-producer of "Asian America: The Ken Fong Podcast, a unique weekly Web-show that focuses on the lives, struggles and accomplishments of a wide array of Asian Americans. Each podcast, host Ken Fong shares stories and thoughts from his own life, and then interviews guests across all sectors of society who are transforming what it means to be Asian American. He will be featured in an upcoming documentary film chronicling how he has been leading Evergreen Baptist Church of LA (Rosemead, CA) to be a safer and healing community for Christians who identify as LGBTQ. Since 2013 Ken has served as the executive director of Fuller Theological Seminary's new Asian American Initiative and as assistant professor of Asian American church studies.

He and his family have lived in Sierra Madre, CA, since 1996. Sharon is with the Private Bank of UBOC and their daughter Janessa is in high school. He loves collecting and riding beautiful road bikes and loves using his Canon gear to create striking images and capture special moments.

ASIAN AMERICA: THE KEN FONG PODCAST

is a weekly show that explores the cultural, artistic, historical, and spiritual aspects of the Asian American community

Photo Source: asianamericapodcast.com



JUNE 2016

**Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Board of Directors 2016-2017**

The following have been nominated to the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Board of Directors of 2016-2017

Officers

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

Members at Large for 2-year Term

Teresa Chung
Gilbert Hom
Don Loo
Eugene W. Moy
Helen Quon
Anthony Tjio

**Members at Large returning for
2nd Year of 2-year Term
(Not for Election)**

Rick Eng
Kelly Fong
Richard Liu
Franklin Mah

Board members serve from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.
The Board of Directors meet on the second Saturday of each month
from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Board members have opportunities to
serve on committees such as the Archive Committee, the Programs
Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Outreach Committee,
etc. Committees meet at various agreed upon dates and times.

Election will take place at the June 1, 2016 meeting at
Castelar Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room.

Board of Directors

Officers

Donald Loo, President
Winifred Lew, Vice President
Gordon Hom, VP for Programs
Helen Quon, Secretary
Susan Dickson, Membership Sec.
Simon Chhuor, Treasurer

Members at Large

Linda Bentz
John Chan
Rick Eng
Kelly Fong
Gilbert Hom
Henry Leong
Richard Liu
Franklin Mah
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 communi-
cate 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 1938 Moon Festival in Los Angeles and the Formation of the Mei Wah Drum Corp

It is always a pleasure to have CHSSC member and doctoral candidate William Gow come and present his hard work and research. In our last meeting, Gow made a presentation on the Mei Wah Drum Corps and the 1938 Moon Festival in Los Angeles. He highlighted the significance of the 1938 Moon Festival, specifically its fundraising effort for Chinese war relief during the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war in 1937. These fundraisers became a forum for performances with one of the well-known performers being the Mei Wah Drum Corp. Gow is currently a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley where he is working on a dissertation called "Performing Chinatown: Hollywood, Tourism, and the Making of a Los Angeles Community, 1931-1949." Will is currently seeking participants for oral/video interviews as part of his research for doctoral dissertation. The project seeks both US-born adults who have memories about the Chinese American community in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s as well as other adults who have had stories passed down to them from this earlier generation. If you are interested, we highly encourage you to contact William Gow at williamgow@berkeley.edu

Photos by O.C. Lee



Notes on Chinese American History

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

While most CHSSC members have heard of Chinese Americans like Peter SooHoo and Y.C. Hong, who served as a bridge between larger Los Angeles society and the Chinese American community in the 1930s and 1940s, the men were not the first members of the Los Angeles Chinese American community to serve in this role. As I have found doing research for my dissertation, there was another earlier generation of business leaders who played similar roles in the 1910s and 1920s, who are not nearly as well known. One of these early business leaders was a man by the name of Lew Sing Kai.

Unlike the accomplishments of Y.C. Hong and Peter SooHoo, which are relatively well documented the details of Lew Sing Kai's work appears to us in fragments in English-language newspapers and published accounts from the period. The June 1912 edition of the magazine "The West Coast," tells us that Lew Sing Kai was a wealthy importer who along with Henry U. Yip a Los Angeles court interpreter, helped found the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles in the 1910s. According to the magazine, in 1912 the leadership of the Chinese merchant class in Los Angeles was focused on three tasks: the building of a steamship line between Los Angeles and Hong Kong; the beautification of Los Angeles Chinatown, and the construction of a exhibit at the Panama Pacific Exhibition in San Francisco.

Other fragments from Lew Sing Kai's life appear in the Los Angeles Times from the period. On April 17, 1912, The Los Angeles Times ran an article entitled, "Chinese View the Local Port," which discussed a visit to the port of San Pedro by a delegation led by Sing Lew Kai and Henry U. Yip from the Chinese Chamber of Congress. The article discusses the desire of the group

to start a direct steamship line between Los Angeles and China, thereby allowing the local Chinese Americans to bypass having their goods directed through San Francisco. When Lew Sing Kai passed away in 1948 at the age of 81, The Los Angeles Times announced that hundreds of Chinese attended his memorial services at the Methodist church.

Lew Sing Kai represents what historian Lisa Rose Mar calls a Chinese broker. In her book, *Brokering and Belonging: Chinese in Canada's Exclusion Era, 1885-1945*. Professor Mar defines brokers as those members of the Chinese community that helped bridge the divide between the worlds of Chinese immigrants in North America and the larger white society. She calls her scholarship "history from the middle," in that it focuses on the ways that these Chinese brokers negotiated between the worlds of both whites in positions of power and Chinese immigrants.

Certainly Lew Sing Kai is not alone in serving in this role as a Chinese broker in Los Angeles. I have encountered numerous examples of other men whose lives played similar roles for the Chinese American community in Los Angeles not only in the 1910s, but in some cases even earlier in the nineteenth century. While in most cases detailed research about the lives of these Chinese brokers from the turn of the century lies outside the scope of my dissertation, the frequency with which the same few names appear in English language publications from the period is striking. Each of these immigrants lived complex lives. Historians have largely overlooked these lives and their contributions to Chinese American history, but the fragments that these leaders left behind in the archival record represent avenues for further study.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
working in cooperation with the National Park Service presents

4th Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage

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



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.

Pictured: 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.

Check Out Highlights of the 4th Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage!

Friday, July 22



National Park Ranger Yenyen Chan will lead a hike to May Lake, walking a part of the original Tioga Road completed in 1883 by Chinese road builders. The trail begins along the original road at around 9000' above sea level and ascends 400 feet in 1.2 miles to May Lake. The hike will start at 10:30am at the May Lake trailhead off Tioga Road.

Saturday, July 23

12:00pm (Wawona Community Center) Informal discussion with experts on the role of Asian Americans in the building of facilities in the Sierra.

2:00pm (Grey Barn in Wawona) Presentation by historian, Sue Fawn Chung, author of Chinese in the Woods

3:00pm (Grey Barn in Wawona) Presentation by children's book author Annette Bay Pimentel of Mountain Chef about Tie Sing, a Chinese American who helped inspire the creation of the National Park Service

6:00pm (Wawona Community Center) Potluck Dinner

Sunday, July 24

Tours and walks in Yosemite Valley - TBA

Monday, July 25 to Wednesday, July 27

Teams of backpackers will be going into the wilderness to the top of Sing Peak, elevation 10,552'.

If you are interested in this project, please visit <http://www.chssc.org/Events/Pilgrimage.aspx> for more information.



Hayward L. Fong

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of longtime member of CHSSC Col. Hayward Fong. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 4th at 10:30 a.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010

The following is from the published biography from www.chssc.org:

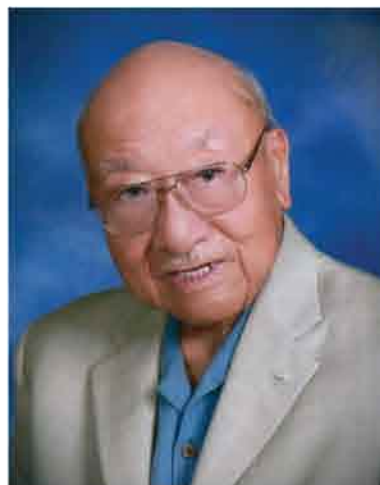
For 37 years, Colonel Hayward Fong has served his country in the United States Army. Colonel Fong entered World War II as a Special Agent assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps. Fong was also Sergeant Major of his training division. Upon his discharge, Colonel Fong remained in the Reserve and served in many Intelligence Command and staff positions. During the Korean War, Colonel Fong prepared operational doctrines and daily domestic intelligence reports for the Sixth Army Commanding General of San Francisco and instructor of the Sixth Army Area Intelligence School.

As Deputy Commander, 313th MI Det, he was assigned to Headquarters, 63rd Army Reserve Command as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence and Security. In his former position as Acting Deputy Commanding General, Fong amalgamated reserve intelligence training with the assets of the active Army on a year-round basis to augment the active duty resources. He also instituted the use of computer technology into personnel security procedures.

For his innovative leadership, he was awarded the 'Legion of Merit' (the Army's second highest service award), and recognized by the Los Angeles City Council, National Intelligence Association, National Counter Intelligence Corps Association, and Southern California Counter Intelligence Corps Association for his contributions to the country's intelligence effort.

In 1948, Hayward was the first civil engineer of Chinese ancestry hired by the Los Angeles County Road Department. He held positions of increasing responsibility, attaining the highest technical management position of Division Engineer. During his ten years as Division Engineer, he managed various divisions, all characterized by innovation in reducing costs, improving design, and building goodwill throughout the construction industry.

After his retirement from the County in 1981, Fong was called by the city of Gardena to be its Community Development Director. In his six years as Community Development Director, he instituted senior citizen housing, a high-rise medical center, an industrial park, and shopping centers. Fong also revamped depressed areas by promoting multicultural activities that stimulated the tourist industry.



Among other leadership roles, he was Vice-chair of the statewide California Transportation and Public Works Conference in 1984. He was elected a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Public Works Association. Fong served as chair for the Joint Committee with the Associated General Contractors and Society's Transportation Group's Los Angeles chapter. He was the recipient of the Associations' William M. Henderson Award for directing a seven-year effort in preparing an industry-wide publication (Standard Plans for Public Works Construction), and Horace Greeley Award for government service.

Hayward, a 1948 graduate of the University of California and 1956 honor graduate of Southwestern University Law School, was active in the Berkeley Engineering Alumni Association. Throughout his activity within the Berkeley Engineering Alumni Association, he held many offices such as president.

Hayward was a member and elder in the Immanuel Presbyterian Church. He has served as designated lay leader, conducting Wednesday morning worship services for twenty-five years. He has also served as Bible class leader, and served as interim Head of Staff and Business Manager.

Hayward was an active member of Masonic fraternal organizations, having served as president of the Los Angeles County Road Department Masonic Club and chaplain for the Los Angeles County Employees' Acacia Club. He has been chaplain for the Los Angeles-Trojan Shrine Club for many years, and was recognized for his contributions to the Shriners with the 2013 Noble of the Year award. He has served as chaplain for the Opera Reading Club of Hollywood.

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 participate in an oral history project?

UC Berkeley graduate student William Gow, working with faculty advisor Professor Shari Huhndorf, seeks oral history participants as part of his research for his doctoral dissertation in Ethnic Studies. The project seeks both US-born adults who have memories about the Chinese American community in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s as well as other adults who have had stories passed down to them from this earlier generation.

All interviews will be recorded digitally in audio and/or video and participants will be provided with a copy of the interview when the process is complete for their own personal use.

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



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Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at chssc@hotmail.com

Community Calendar

Wednesday, June 1, 2016 - 6:30pm

Asian America: The Ken Fong Podcast

Presentation by Rev. Dr. Ken Fong, Senior Pastor Evergreen Baptist Church of LA, Executive Director of the Asian American Initiative and lead interviewer for Asian America Podcast
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
www.chssc.org asianamericapodcast.com

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Chinese in the US South-Finding Cleveland screening A DOCUMENTARY FILM WHERE FAR EAST MEETS DEEP SOUTH

www.OnlyWon.com www.FindingCleveland.com
Alhambra Civic Center Library (Reese Hall)
101 S 1st St, Alhambra, CA 91801
alhambralibrary.org

Saturday, June 18, 2016 5pm-12Midnight Chinatown Summer Nights

Central & West Plazas 943-951 N. Broadway Los Angeles, 90012
Part food event, part summer party, Taste the many culinary offerings of Chinatown and LA's gourmet food trucks; sample the neighborhood's wares; watch Chinese chefs perform cooking demonstrations; experience Chinese cultural activities; sip on craft brews and dance in Central Plaza with 89.9 KCRW's DJ's! Presented by the Chinatown Business Improvement District and KCRW, in association with Community Arts Resources (CARS), Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation, and the ChungKing Plaza Association. Free to the public. chinatownsummernights.com

Saturday-Sunday, June 25 & 26, 2016 9am - 4:30 pm Family Ties: From Past to Present

How do you start your genealogy research? What methods can you employ to conduct your research? How can you find records and documents pertaining to your family? Family Ties: From Past to Present explores methods unique to Chinese Americans who are interested or who have already started their research in uncovering their family history. Learn from the experience of people who are on this journey to find their family history and how they are passing this on to future generations. In addition to guest speakers discussing different aspects of Chinese genealogy research, there will also be breakout sessions to assist individuals with translations, interpretations of their jiapu (genealogy books) and advice on locating a village in China.

California State University, Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive Los Angeles, CA 90032 www.camla.org/familyties

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