

What's on Your Meat Pie?

*Exploring Chinese American
Homestyle Foodways through
Community Cookbooks*

Wednesday, May 3, 2017
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.

Drs. Kelly Fong and Clement Lai will be talking on their current research on Chinese American homestyle foodways. Drawing from Fong's training in historical archaeology, this talk will explore Fong and Lai's transition from thinking about Chinese American homestyle foodways through excavated material culture to exploring these homestyle foodways through community cookbooks that Chinese American civic organizations published starting in the 1950s. Their talk will discuss how they became interested in this project, what they have learned so far, and their future research goals—including an opportunity for you to get involved through sharing recipes!

Dr. Kelly Fong is a fifth-generation Chinese American, Asian American Studies scholar, and historical archaeologist. Using an interdisciplinary perspective, her past research utilized oral history, archival research, and material culture to examine Exclusion-era everyday life for the Isleton Chinatown community in the Sacramento Delta. She is currently a lecturer in Asian American Studies at UCLA and CSU Northridge and has been serving on the CHSSC Board since 2012.

Dr. Clement Lai is a second-generation Chinese American, Ethnic Studies scholar, and cultural geographer. His work examines mid-twentieth century multiracial neighborhoods, social movements, and the geography of racism. He is writing a book on Japanese American and African American communities in San Francisco's Western Addition and their mobilization against urban renewal in the 1950s-1980s. Currently, he is an associate professor in the Department of Asian American Studies at CSU Northridge.





MAY 2017

Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors 2017-2018

The following have been nominated to the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Board of Directors of 2017-2018

Officers

President - Gordon Hom
Vice President - Linda Bentz
Secretary - Winifred Lew
Treasurer - Teresa Chung
VP for Programs - John Chan
Membership Sec. - Helen Quon

Members at Large for 2-year Term

Jeannie Chen
Judy Chou
Susan Dickson
Kelly Fong
Richard Liu
(OpenSeat)

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

Gilbert Hom
Donald Loo
Franklin Mah
Eugene W. Moy

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.

Board members serve from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. 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 7, 2017 meeting at Castelar Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room.

*We will accept nominations from the floor at the May meeting.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Annual Golden Spike Awards Dinner
Storytellers

Saturday, May 20, 2017 –6:00pm

Ocean Star Restaurant

145 N. Atlantic Blvd., #201-203

Monterey Park, CA 91754

Recognizing:

Jenny Cho

Chinatown and China City in Los Angeles, Chinatown in Los Angeles, Chinese in Hollywood

John Jung

A Chinese American Odyssey, Southern Fried Rice, Chinese Laundries

L.P. Leung

The Jade Pendant, Portraits of Pride I & II

Susie Ling

Linking Our Lives: Chinese American Women of Los Angeles, Bridging the Centuries, Gum Saan Journal

Lisa See

On Gold Mountain, China Dolls, Shanghai Girls

Please reserve ____ tickets @ \$100 per person (members), ____ tickets @ \$125 per person (non-members), OR

I wish to be a:

☐ Silver Table Sponsor \$1,250

☐ Gold Table Sponsor \$5,000

☐ Diamond Table Sponsor \$10,000

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

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

Sponsor Name _____

Please list guest names: _____

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

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Checks are accepted. Please remit form and submit payment to: CHSSC 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Credit Card transactions can be processed online at: www.chssc.org/Events/GoldenSpikeDinner.aspx or phoned in during regular business hours Mon-Fri 10:30AM-2:30PM at: (323) 222-0856.

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



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南加州華人歷史學會

Storytellers

Annual Golden Spike Awards Dinner

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Monterey Park, CA 91754

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

☐ **Diamond Sponsor \$10,000**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Diamond Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Invitation to VIP Reception with Honorees
- Reserved PREMIER VIP Tables for twenty (20) at the dinner
- One Full-page ad (Back Cover) in the Annual Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Web Banner with link to Company Website
- Recognition in the Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Special Stage Recognition at the Dinner
- Special giveaways to all attending guests
- Exclusive meal option & wine

☐ **Gold Sponsor \$5,000**

- 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 Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Web Banner with link to Company Website- Up to 1 year
- Recognition in the Annual Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Silver Sponsor \$1,250**

- 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 Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

☐ **Ad/Congratulatory Message (Deadline: April 25th, 2017. File Type: JPEG, 300 dpi)**

- ☐ Back Cover \$1,000 – 8 1/2" w x 11" h
- ☐ Inside Cover \$750 – 7 1/2" w x 10" h
- ☐ Full Page \$500 – 7 1/2" w x 10" h
- ☐ Half Page \$300 – 7 1/2" w x 5" h
- ☐ Quarter Page \$250 – 3 3/4" w x 5" h

Please email all sponsorship inquiries to chssc@hotmail.com, you may also call us at (323) 222-0856



MAY 2017

Archive Spotlight

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, workers engaged in hand laundries were predominantly Chinese. In 1880, for example, forty-nine percent of the Chinese settlers in Santa Barbara reported their occupations as laundrymen. In 1883, the Gin brothers, Fong and Hoo, opened the High Lung Laundry in Santa Barbara. While this laundry changed locations, it was once housed in an historic adobe building at 13 Carrillo Street in 1897, now known as the Hill-Carrillo Adobe. At the time, it was the second largest laundry establishment in Santa Barbara, employing eight men: six ironers and two washers.

In 1992, the Santa Barbara Foundation conducted seismic reinforcement at the Hill-Carrillo Adobe and encountered a deposit of historical materials. Thousands of artifacts were collected, however there was not provision for analysis. In 1995, this assemblage of artifacts was transferred to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. The materials were analyzed at a laboratory at UCLA under the guidance of archaeologist Roberta Greenwood.

Upon analysis of the cultural materials, it appears the artifacts were originally deposited into a well associated with the laundry. The assemblage contains several matching spoons, many, many bitters bottles and American wine, whisky, and champagne bottles. Various types of buttons, safety pins and studs represented the commercial washing of clothes. Traditional Chinese porcelain tablewares were present as well as Chinese brown-glazed stoneware jars. A nursing bottle, toys, shoes and jewelry suggest that women and children lived at the High Lung Laundry.

Several items from the High Lung Laundry Collection have been exhibited in local museums, and a number of diagnostic items have been loaned to San Diego State University's Environmental, Anthropology and Archaeological Laboratory for a comparison collection.



In Memoriam

Tom Woo

April 27, 1924 – April 1, 2017



Tom Fong Woo, congenial, jovial, and networker extraordinaire was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended five different schools from Massachusetts to California, and excelled in both academics and sports. During the Great Depression, Tom worked in various jobs—in grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, and as a truck driver. In 10th grade Chinese school, he was recognized for his calligraphy. His ambidextrous ability enabled him to write and draw equally well with both hands.

After high school, Tom successfully completed the first phase of coursework for military weather officer training at the University of Oregon in Eugene. When the program was abruptly terminated at the end of World War II, he was reassigned to complete his military service in a meteorological unit at the Army Air Force Weather Station in Hondo, Texas. After his Army discharge, Tom attended college at Wellesley's Babson Institute, UCLA, UC Berkeley and USC. In 1950, he received his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in architecture with a minor in fine arts.

In 1954, Tom married Judy Dan, an actress, a former Miss Hong Kong, and a third place runner-up in Miss Universe. They had three daughters: Judiann, Melanda and Becky. Gifted in many fields, Tom settled on a career in architecture and construction. His networking with clients and financiers eventually led him to become one of the founders of the Standard Savings Bank. Tom was also appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley to serve as a member of the Building and Safety Commission.

To Tom, preserving Chinese language and cultural traditions for the younger generation was of utmost importance. He served several terms as a president for the local cultural association. He was also the president for the Southern California Council of Chinese Schools when he recognized the need to unify 15 regional Chinese schools.

We invite you to see our friend Tom profiled in CHSSC's *Portraits of Pride* book.



MAY 2017

Ching Ming

During this annual tradition, one would visit their ancestors' gravesites to pay their utmost respects, as well as, clean and maintain the gravesites. The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California upholds the tradition by holding our Annual Ching Ming Festival. On April 1, 2017, CHSSC members and friends came to Evergreen Cemetery to pay our respects to the early immigrants from China who helped build the American West. As always, a modest but delicious lunch was served to participants. We would like to thank those who helped coordinate or contribute to this event. We would also like to show our appreciation for those who came and participated in our ceremony. It was an afternoon well spent.



Photo: O.C. Lee

The Asparagus King

At our last monthly meeting, we were joined again by longtime CHSSC member and author Sylvia Sun Minnick. In this presentation, Minnick gave CHSSC members and guests a "Glimpse of the Asparagus King". "The Asparagus King" refers to Minnick's grandfather Thomas Foon Chew who was a Chinese farmer turned entrepreneur in the early 20th century. His asparagus canning enterprise, notably Bayside Canning Company, rivaled the largest world canneries. He was remembered as a virtuous employer who treated and paid his workers well. His entrepreneurial spirit, caring nature, and businesses had a significant effect on the Chinese communities in Northern California. Extensive research on Thomas Foon Chew will be featured in an upcoming project by Minnick, so please keep your eyes and ears open.

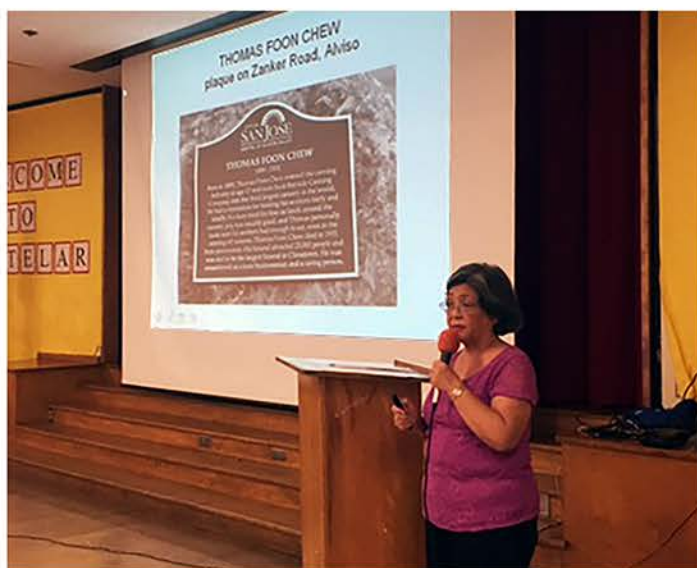


Photo: Eugene W. Moy

6th Annual Kite Festival

In Honor of Tyrus Wong *April 8, 2017*

CHSSC members enjoy the 6th Annual Kite Festival honoring Tyrus Wong at Santa Monica Beach, presented by Otis College of Art and Design



Photo: Susan Dickson



Notes on Chinese American History

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

In March, I had an opportunity to see the premier of *The Chinese Exclusion Act* documentary directed by Rick Burns and Lin-Shin Yu, as part of the Center for Asian American Media Film Festival in San Francisco. The Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into law by President Chester Arthur on May 6, 1882 and provided the first step in implementing the immigration system of quotas and exclusion that dominated the nation until the 1960s. Even though the law was officially repealed in 1943, many of the effects of the law would remain in place through the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act and the lasting legacies of the law are still with us today. Despite the law's far-reaching impact, *The Chinese Exclusion Act* is the first PBS documentary to focus exclusively on the history of this infamous piece of legislation.

The film traces the anti-Chinese sentiments that began in California in the mid-nineteenth century and soon swept across the nation resulting in the passage of the first and only law to exclude a nationality of people by name. The film focuses on the anti-Chinese campaign led by Nativists like Denis Kearny and events like the Chinese Massacre in Los Angeles in 1871, while also tracing the ways in which the Chinese American community resisted the law, including the initial refusal of more than one hundred thousand Chinese Americans to register for identification certificates following the act's renewal in 1892. The film follows the establishment of the immigration detention facilities on Angel Island in 1910, and continues on to explain how the law was enforced until the middle of the Second World War. Discussing the law's local, national, and global effects, the documentary deftly shows the expansive impact that this law had on people around the world.

In addition to telling this story to national audience, the film does so through interviews with predominantly Asian American scholars. The Chinese Exclusion Act includes interviews Philip Choy, John Kuo Wei Tchen, Mary Ting Yi Lui, Renqui Yu, K. Scott Wong, Mae Ngai, Erika Lee, Ling-chi Wang, alongside Kevin Star, Jean Pfaelzer, Martin Gold and others. Too often talking head documentaries interview predominantly white, male scholars, and in the process make implicit arguments over whose research is most important and who is allowed to be the voice of authority for important scholarly topics. In foregrounding Asian American scholars who are experts in the field of Asian American studies, *The Chinese Exclusion Act* not only highlights an important part of US history, but it also does so by allowing experts in the Asian American community to tell that story. This alone makes the film worth watching.

The documentary's greatest weakness, if it has one, is the fact that it is at times almost too information heavy. Ethnic studies scholars talk about "the burden of representation," the idea that the relative paucity of representations of people of color often causes individual representations of people of color to stand in for the entire experiences of a group of people. In being the first and only feature length documentary on the Chinese Exclusion Act, its almost as if the directors of the documentary felt they had to include every important detail of this history—not knowing when or if the opportunity to tell this story to a national audience would occur again. As a result, the sheer amount of information in the piece may be overwhelming to some viewers. I would have preferred a shorter documentary that attempted to make a few major points about the law, while allowing more sequences that allow the viewer to process the information.

With this caveat, I would say that *The Chinese Exclusion Act* is a worthy and important documentary that makes this often overlooked part of US history accessible to a popular audience. It certainly has been too long in coming. I have signed up to work alongside a group of teachers from the Oakland Unified School district to help make school curriculum for this documentary as part of the UC Berkeley History-Social Science Project. I am excited to have the opportunity in the coming months to think through the ways this film might be incorporated into use in public school classrooms.

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 this 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

Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 6:30pm

"What's on Your Meat Pie?: Exploring Chinese American Homestyle Foodways Through Community Cookbooks"

with Kelly Fong, Ph.D., lecturer in Asian American Studies at UCLA and CSU Northridge, and CHSSC Board member, and Clement Lai, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Asian American Studies at CSU Northridge, and past CHSSC Board member

Castelar Elementary 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking - enter via College Street. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public

April 27-May 4, 2017

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival

This year, LAAPFF features over 180 films from both Asian Pacific American and Asian international artists. For over three decades, the festival has presented close to 4,000 films by Asian Pacific American and Asian international talent. A record 45 feature films and 139 shorts from over 750 submissions will be showcased throughout the eight-day fest. For more information about this festival please visit: www.festival.vconline.org/2017

Monday, May 7, 2017, 2pm - 6pm

Save Music in Chinatown 12

Grand Star Jazz Club, Chinatown Central Plaza, 943 Sun Mun Way, Los Angeles, CA 90012

This is the twelfth in a series of fundraising concerts organized to pay for the underfunded music education program at Castelar Elementary School.

For tickets:

www.eventbrite.com/e/save-music-in-chinatown-12-tickets-33510304222

Saturday May 20, 2017 6:00pm

CHSSC Golden Spike Awards Storytellers

Ocean Star Restaurant

145 N Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park, CA 91754

Honoring five renowned authors: Jenny Cho, John Jung, L.P. Leung, Susie Ling, and Lisa See. Their writings, both fiction and non-fiction, have captured the dreams and culture, the struggles and accomplishments, and the history of Chinese Americans. Please show your support during Asian Pacific Heritage Month, and RSVP today. If you have not sent in your RSVP, please fill out the form included in this newsletter or RSVP online: www.chssc.org/Events/GoldenSpikeDinner.aspx

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:00am-4:35pm

Family Ties: Sharing the Past with the Future

A Chinese American Genealogy Workshop

The one-day workshop will show you methods to pass your family history on to family and future generations. Concurrent sessions will allow you to get one-to-one help on all the above methods and Chinese translation services. Bring short documents that you wish to have translated and get timed tickets at the sign-in table. Register at www.ChineseFamilyHistory.org

Sunday, May 21, 2017 2:00pm

Felicia Lowe presents "Chinese Couplets"

Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library

318 S. Ramona Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91754

Chinese Couplets is an intimate family story that reveals the impact of Chinese Exclusion Acts on one family, over two centuries in three countries on four generations of women. A film discussion with the director will follow the film screening. For more information call the Reference Desk at (626) 307-1368.