

SEPTEMBER 2017

# The Essence of Tea

*Presented by Linda Louie*

Wednesday, September 6, 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.



From medicinal use to the subject of artistic pursuits among aristocrats to being the most consumed beverage in the world second to water, tea has served many functions for over 3,000 years. Find out how tea is grown, processed and best prepared. Learn the six major categories of tea and how to recognize their unique characteristics. The lecture is followed by a Gong-fu tea demonstration and tasting.



*Linda Louie, owner of Bana Tea Company, is a tea enthusiast and a tea educator. She was mentored by a renowned tea master in Hong Kong and has traveled extensively to remote villages of tea producing regions in the world in searching for the finest teas. Ms. Louie regularly gives tea lectures, tea brewing demonstrations and focused tastings at museums, the Huntington Library and Gardens, public libraries, community colleges, and various tea conventions, including the L.A. International Tea Festivals and the World Tea Expo.*





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## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Summer Picnic

On Saturday, August 26, 2017, CHSSC members and friends gathered at the beautiful Los Angeles State Historic Park for an afternoon of fellowship, activities, and bonding. Food was plentiful and was prepared by volunteers and board members of the CHSSC, featuring classic barbecue items such as hamburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, along with a half-sheet of delicious strawberry cake courtesy of Phoenix Bakery, and other delicious snacks. For entertainment, Dr. Pedro Chan charmed our guests with his magic show.

Thank you to Connie Vuong, Rick Eng, Gordon and Rose Hom, the staff at Los Angeles State Historic Park, Phoenix Bakery, Pedro Chan, Board Members, volunteers and interns who made this event possible. It was a great event all around, and we hope to see everyone again next year.



Photos: O.C. Lee

## Board of Directors

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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.





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## Intern Reflections

This summer, the CHSSC was fortunate to have 3 interns provide a helping hand in various CHSSC projects. Two of our interns, Kristy Phan and Gladys Garcia are a part of our CHSSC summer internship program and assigned to the archives committee, our third intern, Gareth Wang, was introduced to us as part of the The Yuen Fong and Lew Oy Toy Family Internship. As their internship nears its end, we ask them to reflect on their time here and what they have accomplished. We know that each one of them will be successful in their own right and wish them nothing but much success in their professional careers. We are proud to have been able to guide and teach three bright minds. Thank you to Gareth, Gladys, and Kristy. Until next time!



As my time at CHSSC comes to a close, I want to thank Susan Stern and the committee at CHSSC that collaborated with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center to create the internship position and to make my experience this summer possible. I also want to thank Fenton and Vincent for being wonderful to work with (and for introducing me to the many culinary delights of Chinatown), and I'd like to give a shout-out to my fellow interns Kristy and Gladys for being there with me throughout this process. I feel like I really got the full experience of what it's like to work at a grassroots organization like CHSSC this summer as I was involved in projects ranging from photographing the Society's collection of grave markers to building shelves for the archives to digitizing editions of News and Notes dating back to 1978. Additionally, I wrote a piece about Orientalism and capitalism and helped to catalog books in the Society's library. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work at an organization that is so embedded in the Chinese community in Los Angeles, and beyond, and is so dedicated to unearthing and teaching the history of Chinese and Chinese-American history, which is so often overlooked. I hope to take what I've learned this summer back to UCLA and integrate it into my studies and I look forward to remaining involved with the Society in the future.

- Gareth Wang

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity of being chosen as an archivist intern for the first internship program sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Throughout my internship, I was mentored and supervised by Linda Bentz, Eugene W. Moy, Judy Chou, and Jeanie Chen. Throughout my summer here at CHSSC, I created a finding aid for the Chace, Evans, and Molenda Collection of materials. The materials pertaining to this collection belong to late 19th-century Chinese campsites in Northern California, most notably Donner Summit. The campsites at Donner Summit and

the surrounding areas belonged to Chinese railroad workers who formed Chinatowns and ethnic enclaves (now gone) at the heyday of the trans-continental railroad construction. The collection was originally created by Paul G. Chace and the late Bill Evans in the early 1960's as part of an archeological trip to Donner Summit and the surrounding area. The collection was later completed by John Molenda, a Ph. D candidate at Columbia University.

Over the summer, I learned new archival techniques such as More Product and Less Process, archeological terminology and processing, and an intimate history of the Fritz family home in Chinatown. Working on this collection and being in conversation with staff and the other summer interns Kristy Phan and Garreth Wang, allowed me to get a better understanding of how the CHSSC helps preserve the historic and cultural patrimony of Chinese enclaves (past and present) in the Los Angeles area and Southern California. What I learned as an archivist and LA resident while working at CHSSC are the immense amount of contributions the Chinese American community has made to Los Angeles, beginning with the labor and economic input of Chinese immigrants pushed to come to the U.S. in the early modern period.

- Gladys Garcia



I applied for the CHSSC internship to get an introduction to archival work. As a student majoring in Asian American studies at UCLA, I was interested in the practical ways to get involved in social justice and to uplift the stories and lives of marginalized peoples.

These past 10 weeks, I have been processing the Fritz Family Collection. The Fritzes were a French family that lived in the Bernard Street homes for three generations before CHSSC moved in. This area, now known as Chinatown, was the French Quarter back in the early 20th century. The family left behind various documents such as Freemasons aprons, old maps of Downtown Los Angeles, and Community Redevelopment Agency materials.

My objective for the summer is to create a finding aid for this collection so that the knowledge within becomes accessible to the community. Other than archival work, I also enjoyed meeting all the community members involved with CHSSC. Everyone that I met was so welcoming and I appreciate being a part of an organization bonded through a shared interest in Chinese American history.

I would like to thank Eugene Moy, Gilbert Hom, Fenton Eng, and Vincent Huynh for their hardwork at CHSSC; fellow interns Gareth Wang and Gladys Garcia for adding more fun; and Linda Bentz, Jeannie Chen, Judy Chou for lending their archival knowledge. I am excited to see CHSSC grow and to become involved in the future.

- Kristy Phan





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*In Memorium*

# Charles Wong

May 24, 1948 – July 6, 2017

On Saturday, August 12, 2017 family and friends of Charles Wong gathered at All Saint's Church in Pasadena to pay their respects to Charles Wong. Service ended with a memorial lunch at Ocean Star Seafood. We would like to thank the family of Charles Wong for inviting us to take part in paying tribute, as well as the generous donors who have donated in his memory.

No. 26 of the 106 original Charter Members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Charles had been involved with social activists in Chinatown and at UCLA in his early years. Charles was a former CHSSC board member, chair of the 1981 Chinatown Walking Tour project, a sociologist and former university professor.



Photo: Pictured below are the charter members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California with Charles Wong (back row near the center with his arms raised) at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the CHSSC, October 2015.







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## Notes on Chinese American History

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

**M**y grandmother, Mildred Hee was the youngest of thirteen children and was born on California's North Coast in the town of Mendocino. Her grandfather was among those who helped build the area's Temple of Kwan Tai in the 1850s. Last month I had the opportunity to visit the temple for the first time as part of the Hee family reunion.

According to the family legend, my grandmother's grandfather was among a group of Chinese who sailed to the United States from Southern China on their own ship, landing here only a few years after California had been admitted into the Union. According to family lore, there were seven ships that set sail from China, but only two made it to the West Coast. One landed in Monterey and the other landed in Mendocino. In an oral history, conducted with the Mendocino County Oral History Project in 1976, my grandmother's brother, George recalled that his grandfather had arrived in 1854 and that along with other members of the ship they had built the temple only a few months after they arrived. According to Lorraine Hee-Chorley in her book, *The Chinese in Mendocino County*, by the 1870s the Temple Kwan Tai had a full-time priest and was open twenty four hours a day for any member of the Chinese American community that needed to use it. Members of the Hee family maintained the temple throughout most of the twentieth century. In 1995, a non-profit was formed to help restore the temple and to insure its long-term maintenance. Today the temple is one of the oldest Chinese temples in California.

Despite the large size of my grandmother's family, I grew up knowing only a few of my grandmother's relatives and had never before visited Mendocino. The reunion was a wonderful chance to meet relatives I've never met and to visit the temple that has been maintained by members of my family for more than a century. The Temple of Kwan Tai is small, consisting of only two rooms, and yet I could see the care that has been put into maintaining the site. I am truly thankful for the all the work members of the Hee family and the non-profit have done to restore and maintain the site. Certainly, it was only a few decades ago that the state and the federal government began demonstrating any interest in maintaining sites and documents related to Chinese Americans history. Given this reality, I am certain that without the hard work of the descendants of those who built the temple, this Chinese American site, like so many others, would have been lost to history.

Being able to stand in this temple built and maintained by members of my family gave me a sense of connection to the past, unlike few experiences I have ever had. Despite having done genealogical research for more than fifteen years, and having seen photos and other written documents produced by relatives, I felt a connection to the past while standing inside the temple that I have rarely felt before. While photos can capture a visual image of a moment that came before, and written historical documents can offer a way of understanding people's actions and feelings, there

there is a physicality and presence to buildings that don't exist in photos or written documents. Knowing that this building was built more than a hundred and fifty years ago in part by the work of grandmother's grandfather, and being able to touch the walls and floors he worked on himself, gave me a sense of connection to this generation that photos and the written word rarely do. The large number of family members that I was surrounded by that day only magnified this sense of connection. As a result, this visit to Mendocino was an experience I won't soon forget.

*William Gow is currently a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley where he is writing a history of Los Angeles Chinatown and its relationship to Hollywood 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](mailto:wgow@outlook.com)*







# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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

*Please help us save paper and postage,  
email us for your online newsletter at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)*

## Community Calendar

### **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 - 6:30pm**

#### **The Essence of Tea**

Join Linda Louie of Bana Tea Company for a focused tasting of Pu'er tea, with samples of different vintages, harvest seasons, and varieties.

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.

### **Sunday, September 10, 2017 - 2:00pm**

#### **A Taste of the Chinese Strings**

An afternoon of traditional Chinese music highlighting the classical string instruments. The program includes solos by Meiye Ma on pipa, Hejia Gao on guzheng, and Yunhe Liang on erhu, as well as works performed by the Spring Thunder Music Ensemble.

Rothenberg Hall The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA 91108 626.405.2100

Online Registration: [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3021780](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3021780)

### **Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

#### **The Beautiful Country And The Middle Kingdom**

Please join the USC U.S.-China Institute for a book talk by John Pomfret to examine the remarkable history of the two-centuries-old relationship between the United States and China, from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, ASC 204 University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA 90089

More information: [www.china.usc.edu/calendar/beautiful-country-and-middle-kingdom](http://www.china.usc.edu/calendar/beautiful-country-and-middle-kingdom)

### **Thursday, September 14, 2017 - 6:30pm**

#### **21st Annual Historymakers Awards Gala**

Presented by the Chinese American Museum

Recognizing outstanding individuals and organizations whose accomplishments have made a significant and lasting impact toward the advancement of Chinese Americans.

The 2017 honorees are: State Assemblymember Ed Chau, Dunson K. Cheng, T.G. Wing Chow, M.D., Ivy and Leo Chu, Nissan North America, Milton Quon

Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites

404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA

More info: [camla.org/annual-historymakers-awards-gala](http://camla.org/annual-historymakers-awards-gala)

### **Saturday, September 23, 2017 - 10:00am to Noon**

#### **Chinese Family History Group of SoCal (CFHGSC) meeting**

History of Old and New Chinatown in Los Angeles and New Chinatown Tour. Presenter: Eugene Moy, CHSSC

RSVP: [www.chinesefamilyhistory.org/next-meeting.html](http://www.chinesefamilyhistory.org/next-meeting.html)

### **Saturday, September 30, 2017 - 7:00pm – 10:00pm**

#### **Apex 24th Annual Gala**

APEX's gala is an annual fundraising benefit where the Asian Pacific Islander American community comes together to celebrate the organization's past and present accomplishments and honors the contributions of prominent Asian Pacific Islander Americans. Honorees: James Choi – Excellence in Business (Café Dulce) Evie Jeang – Excellence in Community Service MILCK – Excellence in Cultural awareness Vivian Tran - President's Award

Cafe Pinot, 700 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Tickets:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/apex-24th-annual-gala-tickets-36992910792?aff=es2](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/apex-24th-annual-gala-tickets-36992910792?aff=es2)