

# NEWS'N NOTES



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)

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

FEBRUARY 2018

### Presenting Arthur Dong 曾奕田

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:30 pm

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

Free parking - enter via College Street  
This event is open to the public.



At this monthly meeting, we will be joined by filmmaker, author, and Golden Spike Awards Honoree Arthur Dong. On April 28, 2018, the CHSSC will be honoring Arthur Dong at our Annual Golden Spike Awards Gala, and we are excited to have him come showcase his work for our members at our monthly meeting. Arthur will be showing clips from his collection of works and will be discussing the importance of his works in depicting Chinese American history, as well as, the hostile climate of today's society. Please come and join us for an intimate conversation and evening with Arthur Dong.

Arthur Dong is an Oscar® nominee and award-winning author whose films examine Chinese America (Forbidden City, USA, Hollywood Chinese, Sewing Woman) and anti-gay prejudice (Coming Out Under Fire, Family Fundamentals, Licensed to Kill). His latest documentary, The Killing Fields of Dr. Haing S. Ngor, chronicled the Academy Award®-winning Cambodian-Chinese actor's remarkable journey from Khmer Rouge slave camps to the bright lights of Hollywood.

In 1982, Mr. Dong established DeepFocus Productions, Inc., which has since developed, produced and distributed the entire spectrum of his work, including films, publications, and exhibitions. The company's pioneering work, starting from handling 16mm film prints and branching out to print, video, digital, web, e-commerce and cyber-based formats, has been chronicled in articles and in full-length chapters of the books Independent Film Distribution and The AIVF Film And Video Self-Distribution Toolkit.

Among Mr. Dong's film excellence awards are an Oscar® nomination, three Sundance Film Festival awards, the Peabody Award, the Berlin Film Festival's Teddy Award, Taiwan's Golden Horse Award, and five Emmy nominations. His public service honors include the Pioneer Award from the Organization of Chinese Americans, the History Maker Award from the Chinese American Museum, the Historian Award from the Chinese Historical Society of America, the Out 100 Award from Out Magazine, and San Francisco State University's Alumnus of the Year Award. Funding for his films include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, the Sundance Institute, the MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The International Documentary Association's Spring 2011 magazine cited the filmmaker as "the pre-eminent documentarist of Chinese America."

Mr. Dong served on the Board of Governors at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the National Film Preservation Board at the Library of Congress, and the boards of Film Independent and Outfest. At the Academy, he was among the original architects that advocated for and founded the Academy's Documentary Branch in 2001; he was also a decade-long member of the organization's Documentary Executive Committee. During his tenure at the National Film Preservation Board, he successfully nominated and lobbied for the selection of two seminal Chinese American films into the National Film Registry: Flower Drum Song (1961) and The Curse of Quon Gwon (1916), the earliest known film produced by Asian Americans that Mr. Dong helped re-discover while researching for his Hollywood Chinese documentary. For more information, please visit: <http://www.deepfocusproductions.com>







## WAPOW Magazine

At the last monthly meeting, we were joined by media professional, editor-in-chief, and CHSSC member Wendy Chung to talk about Los Angeles Chinatown's very own bilingual community quarterly magazine. Wendy shared her inspiration for starting the magazine, which stemmed from her family's immigrant experience as Vietnam War refugees who began their lives in America in Los Angeles Chinatown. In her presentation, Wendy goes over the process of making an issue of WAPOW and how she and her multigenerational team come together to collaborate on telling the stories of Chinatown. WAPOW's goal is to keep the people in the Chinatown community informed and promote dialogue as rapid change and urban development occurs. WAPOW also seeks to keep the community connected by sharing the personal stories of the locals and community members. Pick up a free issue of WAPOW magazine today at the CHSSC headquarters or at your nearest Los Angeles Chinatown institution.



## 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.





FEBRUARY 2018

## 119th Golden Dragon Parade

Saturday, February 17, 2017 12:00 noon

Participants must wear a red top and black bottoms.

Meet at Hill St. & Ord St. in front of Chinatown Library

Join the Lunar New Year Festivities with the CHSSC!

Take part in the Golden Dragon Parade by marching with the CHSSC flag unit, or relax with fellow friends and members at the CHSSC headquarters on Bernard St.

Every year, thousands of individuals line the parade route with many more watching the telecast. With over a century of tradition in Southern California, the Golden Dragon Parade has become the premiere cultural event for celebrating the Lunar New Year in greater Los Angeles.

The Lunar New Year is the most celebrated holiday of the year for nearly 1.5 million persons of Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese descent in Southern California. It is celebrated with colorful festivals, parades, and most importantly, large family gatherings. It is also a time when ancestors are fondly remembered and families give thanks for their blessings. As always, the CHSSC wishes to do everything we can to keep these traditions alive, so that future generations can take part in them as well.

We invite you to be a part of this important annual celebration- as a spectator, participant, or sponsor.



## Archive Spotlight

The Archives Committee is continuing to sort and organize documents and artifacts currently curated in the CHSSC archives. During the last few months we have directed our focus on documents generated by the Society. We have also unearthed hundreds of photographs that date back a few decades. If you would like to help us identify individuals in these photographs we would greatly welcome your help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us via email at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com), or call us at (323) 222-0856. We look forward to hearing from you!



**Please Renew  
Your Membership Now!**  
Renew online! [www.chssc.org/join/membership.aspx](http://www.chssc.org/join/membership.aspx)



**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California**

**南加州華人歷史學會**

## 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.

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☐ New Membership    ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MC # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Silver \$ 57.

☐ 100 x 100 Club \$ 100.

☐ Diamond \$ 300.

☐ Student or Senior (60+) \$ 32.

Donation (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### Make checks payable to CHSSC

We are a 501(c)3  
non-profit organization,  
tax ID: 95-3155357

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## Notes on Chinese American History

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

San Francisco's Sunset district holds a growing percentage of the city's Chinese American population. Today, more than half of the district's 90,000 residents are Chinese. Despite this, the Avenues, as the Sunset and Richmond districts are sometimes collectively referred to, have largely been overlooked in the historiography on Chinese Americans in the city. Indeed despite San Francisco having the most well documented Chinese American population in the nation, academics have for the most part ignored much of the history of Chinese Americans outside of Chinatown. Recently, I had the pleasure of participating in a new community history project run by the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) that seeks to rectify this oversight in the way city's Chinese American history is told. While I have conducted dozens of oral history interviews, this was my first time serving as an oral history interviewee. For the project, I recounted stories of my youth as a Chinese American growing up in the Sunset. As the CHSA exhibit on the Sunset at the main branch of the San Francisco Public Library points out, there have been Chinese American residents in the district since at least the 1940s. Before this, as was the case in much of the city, the redlining practices of local real estate firms kept Chinese Americans segregated in Chinatown. One part of the exhibit tells the story of attempts by CHSA founder Thomas Chinn and his wife to buy a home in the district in the 1930s. While the couple toured a home in the Sunset, area residents took down the couple's license plate number. Later a member of the local Chinatown police squad approach Thomas Chinn in his store to advise him not to buy a home in the district. Needless to say he and his wife bought elsewhere. By the time my father and mother bought their first house in the Sunset district in the 1970s, attitudes had changed. Yet even in this period, my parents recall people commenting to them about how strange it was to see an interracial Chinese and white couple living in the neighborhood.

My identity as a Chinese American is closely tied with my time growing up in the Sunset District. As a fifth generation Chinese American of mixed descent, I am certain that I would not have as strong an identity as a Chinese American had I not grown up in the Sunset. Attending public elementary and middle schools with large numbers of fellows Chinese Americans while living only a few blocks from Taraval street with it Chinese-owned restaurants, laundry mats, hardware store, and bakeries certainly helped instill in me a sense of being part of the Chinese American community. My work as a Chinese American historian is no doubt grounded in my experiences as a youth growing up in the Sunset.

Today my research on Chinese American history remains strongly interested in the ways in which the ideas of Chinatown in Los Angeles in the early to mid-twentieth century deflected broader white interest away from the growing Chinese American communities near Ninth and San Pedro Streets and East Adams. Similarly in San Francisco, the history of Chinese Americans has in many ways come to be conflated with the twin sites of Chinatown and Angel Island. Given this context, I welcome the first efforts by the CHSA to broaden our understandings of the places in which we look to find Chinese American history in the city. For those with plans to visit San Francisco sometime over the next month, the Chinese in the Sunset Exhibit is on view on the third floor of the main branch of the San Francisco Public Library until February 22nd, 2018.

*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)*



A warm thanks and appreciation to our major donors  
and their contributions in support of CHSSC:

George and Edith Sheu  
Winifred Lew  
Marlene C. Conner & Michael R. Conner,  
Family Foundation





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

## Community Calendar

**Saturday, February 10, 2018 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

### **San Gabriel Lunar New Year Festival**

The most celebrated holiday in Asia with many large festivals and events held around the world. The festival will consist of Street Food Fair, Marketplace, Carnival Games, Chalk Art Contest, and Kids Zone!

FREE to the public

San Gabriel Mission District, 320 S Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776 More information: [info@sglunarnewyear.org](mailto:info@sglunarnewyear.org)

**Sunday, February 11, 2018 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

### **Celebrate the Lunar New Year**

Bring the family for a cultural celebration of the Lunar New Year. We will honor The Year of the Dog with dragon & lion dances, performances from Quest Crew from America's Best Dance Crew, gourmet bites, art demonstrations, giveaways and so much more. This is a colorful and festive event that you won't want to miss!

FREE to the public

The Americana at Brand, 889 Americana Way, Glendale, CA 91210 More info: 818-637-8982

[www.americanaatbrand.com/events/celebrate-lunar-new-year-americana-brand/](http://www.americanaatbrand.com/events/celebrate-lunar-new-year-americana-brand/)

**Saturday, Feb. 17 – Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018- 10am – 5 PM**  
**Chinese New Year Festival**

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at The Huntington as the Year of the Dog begins. Festivities include lion dancers, mask-changing performances, martial arts, Chinese music, and more.

Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108 626-405-2100 More info: <http://huntington.org/chinesenewyear/>

**Saturday, February 17, 2018, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

### **Lunar New Year Festival at USC Pacific Asia Museum**

Join us for our annual Lunar New Year festival celebrating the Year of the Dog! Free admission to the galleries, performances, artmaking workshops and more. Performances include music, song, dance, acrobats, martial arts demonstrations and more.

FREE

USC Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N Los Robles Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101 626-449-2742

More information: [www.eventbrite.com/e/lunar-new-year-festival-at-usc-pacific-asia-museum-tickets-42512942355?aff=es2](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunar-new-year-festival-at-usc-pacific-asia-museum-tickets-42512942355?aff=es2)

**Thursday, February 22, 2018 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

### **Cheng Foundation Lecture – Chop Suey, USA: How Americans Discovered Chinese Food**

Yong Chen discusses the historical forces that turned Chinese food, a cuisine once widely rejected by Americans, into one of the most popular ethnic foods in the U.S.

Free. No reservations required.

Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens, Rothenberg Hall, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108 626-405-2100

More information: [www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/calendardetail.aspx?id=24947](http://www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/calendardetail.aspx?id=24947)

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