



FEBRUARY 2019

February Monthly Meeting: speaker John Jung

Born in 1937 in Macon, Georgia, to Chinese immigrant parents who operated a laundry during the years before the civil rights era, I didn't fully know what being Chinese meant as we were the only Chinese in town. After I retired from a forty-year career as a professor of psychology, my interest in understanding how my ethnic identity emerged led me to write a memoir, *Southern Fried Rice: Life in A Chinese Laundry in the Deep South*, in 2005. Positive responses from readers and audiences when I gave book talks all over the U. S. made me realize this was an important story to preserve and share.

I was inspired to write several additional books: *Chinese Laundries: Tickets to Survival on Gold Mountain* (2007), *Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton: Lives of Mississippi Delta Chinese Grocers* (2009), *Sweet & Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants* (2010), and *A Chinese American Odyssey: How A Retired Psychologist Makes A Hit As A Historian* (2014).

My latest book, [A Chinese American Odyssey: How A Retired Psychologist Makes a Hit as a Historian](#), provides an inside look at the processes of researching, writing, speaking about these four books on the lives and work of pioneering Chinese in America. The goal of these books is to inspire, educate, and preserve the history of the many contributions of the Chinese to American society.



How and Why Chinese Moved to the Hinterlands in 1870s

Most of the earliest Chinese immigrants entered at west coast ports where they lived and worked during the middle of the 19th century. During the decade of the 1870s, and beyond, an increasing number of Chinese found their way through various means into the hinterlands, regions where there had previously been no or few Chinese. What were the primary factors that led to this migration of many Chinese across the country, a remarkable feat given their lack of English language competence, limited financial resources, and unfamiliarity of other regions of the country.

Again this month, CHSSC will be meeting at the CACA Lodge:

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

6:30PM (check-in and refreshments), 7:00PM (program) to 9:00PM

Chinese American Citizens Alliance LA Lodge (behind Phoenix Bakery)

415 Bamboo Lane

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking available on the street (meters run until 8:00PM) and at Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza. For any questions, please contact info@chssc.org. Map on inside cover



President's Letter

CHSSC has been having monthly meetings at Castelar Elementary School in Chinatown since 1977 when Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon was principal. Castelar was the perfect meeting place: centrally located, on-site parking, convenient restrooms, a large room with a screen.

This past fall Castelar's current principal, Wing Fung, informed CHSSC that the new LAUSD superintendent requires that organizations complete paperwork in order to hold meetings at school sites. In December, LAUSD sent us an invoice for the next 6 months. To our surprise we would need to pay \$600 per meeting plus carry additional insurance which will cost another \$75 per month.

As \$700 per month is unaffordable, we will be trying different locations for our monthly meetings. This month, we plan to stay in Chinatown. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) has generously agreed to let us use their L.A. lodge on Bamboo Lane again.

Finding a convenient, affordable venue will be a challenge. We want our members to be a part of the decision-making process. Suggestions for future meeting locations will be appreciated.

At this time of change, maintaining and even increasing membership is vital. Please show your commitment to our mission by joining CHSSC or renewing your membership on the enclosed flyer.

Sincerely,
Susan Dickson
CHSSC President



Eugene Moy and Susan Sing present at the C.A.C.A. Lodge in January to a filled room. They shared stories on Chinese American culture observed from historic Route 66.

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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-Americans community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California



Mission Statement

Established in 1975, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) unites people with a mutual interest in promoting the rich heritage of Chinese and Chinese American history. Our mission is to pursue, preserve and communicate the history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California.

What We Do

- ◆ Conduct monthly meetings public presentations on Chinese American History.
- ◆ Sponsor and participate in symposiums, exhibits and conferences.
- ◆ Conduct Chinatown walking tours for students and public.
- ◆ Lead the annual Lunar New Year Golden Dragon Parade.

Research and Publication

- ◆ Publication of multiple books by renown scholars
- ◆ The *Gum Saan Journal* is the Society's annual publication
- ◆ Maintain a library with thousands of topics related to Chinese American topics
- ◆ Maintain an archive consisting of oral histories, archaeological collections, photographs and family histories.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
info@chssc.org (323) 2220856
www.chssc.org

Please cut along the dotted line

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Visa/MC # _____ CVV _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

☐ Silver \$ 57.

☐ 100 x 100 Club \$ 100.

☐ Diamond \$ 300.

☐ Student or Senior (60+) \$ 32.

Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____

Total \$ _____



January Meeting Recap

Membership Secretary Eugene Moy and Susan Sing, spoke to a standing room only audience at our interim venue: the Los Angeles Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. Gene's photos of their experiences on their 2017 trip to Chicago along Route 66 included historic buildings and markers as well as the stories of people they met along the way.

Gene also focused on the many Chinese businesses on Route 66. Eating at Chinese restaurants was an important part of their effort to understand the experience of those of Chinese heritage who had moved away from the major metropolitan areas to set up businesses. As Gene shared their stories, he showed us restaurant interiors and menus.

The second half of Gene's presentation related their experiences on their return trip to L.A. which included visiting past president Cy Wong in Louisiana. The photos of differing landscapes, historical plaques, and friends and family members provided a glimpse of the diverse aspects of the land we live in. The diverse people they met, and the stories they heard, reinforced their awareness that our country is indeed a nation of immigrants. *(photo on page 2)*

Recent Outreach

In addition to presenting the Route 66 program, past president Eugene has been busy sharing Chinese American history at various venues.

* **January 15th** — A scheduled Chinatown walking tour for Dr. Tim Tseng's class from Logos Seminary was cancelled due to an imminent rainstorm. Instead, a dual projector slide presentation, in English and Chinese, on the early Chinese in the San Gabriel Valley was shown to a full classroom of (adult) students, mostly from Taiwan and China, at the seminary's campus in El Monte. This replicated a previous presentation prepared with assistance from Pastor Thomas Ni for the English- and Chinese-language congregations of the Church of Our Saviour (Episcopal) in San Gabriel.

* **January 19th** — A PowerPoint program on the Chinese role in building the first transcontinental railroad, and many other railroad and labor efforts as well, was presented to the Long Beach Chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association.

* **January 23rd** — A short history on the role of Chinese and other Asian Pacific Islander workers and entrepreneurs in the development of the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) was presented at the annual officers installation dinner of the Asian Business Association-Inland Empire in Corona.



Special thanks to:

Oilin Chan Briggs

Patricia Dung

Sue Hoy

Anita Jeung

Chuck Woo

Gordon Young

Merlene & Michael Conner, major donors

George & Edith Sheu, major donors

The CHSSC's Capital Campaign continues; to donate visit our website at chssc.org, or use the form on page 3.



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Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade

Saturday, February 9th, 2019
1:00PM-3:00PM

Annually, the Chinese Historical Society has been leading off the New Years parade with an American flag unit.



If you are interested, please meet us at **Hill St. and Ord St. in front of the Chinatown Library at 12:15PM**

Or, watch the parade at the CHSSC Visitor's Heritage Center (411-415 Bernard St.)

Join us in sharing community pride.



Work Day

In January, a team of CHSSC staff and Board Members took a jumpstart on Spring Cleaning and went through the Society's extensive collection of books, documents, and items.



Archives Spotlight by Linda Bentz

Work is progressing in the library and archives at CHSSC. We are pleased to welcome volunteer Steve Tom who is helping to organize our library. By using a library management system, our goal is create a catalog of our books. Ultimately this catalog will be shared on-line with members, researchers, students and scholars.

Processing of the Duty and Honor Collection continues at CHSSC. Our archivist, Albert Lowe, is sorting and organizing the collection. Interns David Castro and Cassidy Rowe are completing full transcriptions of the oral interviews. Forty-five oral interviews are available for listening at CHSSC. The list of interviewees is provided below. If you would like to listen to these interviews please contact Linda Bentz at info@chssc.org.

Amer, Tom	Lem, Abel	Turchi, Herbert
Ang, Daniel (Ka Tui Ang)	Leong, Herbert	Ung, Siui H.
Chang, Dorothy	Leung, Monroe	Wong, Frank
Chin, Abraham	Lew, Albert	Wong, Gage Jr.
Chin, Howard	Lew, Jem Yin	Wong, Gin Dan
Chong, Albert	Lew, Yolk T.	Wong, Hong Y.
Chow, Robert	Lew, Frank	Wong, Paul Lawrence
Chu, Judson	Lowe, Albert	Wong, Willis
Der, Albert	Low, Ngoon	Woo, Ng
Fong, Jim	Nin, Jay s.	Woo, James Wing
Gee, Harry	Schoon, Richard	Woo, Sam Hong
Gee, Jim Wah	Schoon, Victor	Woo, Tom
Gong, Fred Jr.	Soo Hoo, Peter	Woo, Young N.
Jew, Bennie	Tang, Ken	Yee, Ernest Jr.
Jung, Robert	Tong, Kay	Yip, James S.



From China to the US with a Paper Name

Cindy Yee looks back on her father's migration to the United States and the barriers he faced during this era of exclusion.

Reflecting back to my youth growing up in the 50's watching television shows such as *Rin Tin Tin*, *Ozzie and Harriet*, *Hit Parade*, and *The Ed Sullivan Show*; it was such a simpler time. I was like any other American kid playing with toy guns and roller skating. In 1959, my parents sold their mom and pop grocery store and opened up one of the first Chinese take-out restaurants in Reseda, CA. As my younger sisters and I grew older, we were assisting in the kitchen peeling hundreds of pounds of shrimp, cleaning large bags of pea pods, and bagging fried noodles and almond cookies into wax paper bags. As children we thought this was very normal and never gave it a second thought that we were different—that our ancestors were not from the United States.

In 1989, Dad retired and planned a visit to his roots—China. Busy raising a family and working, I never had a desire to go to China until Dad began making plans. All of a sudden it hit me; if I don't go with him now, I will never know my heritage. With 35 rolls of film, I made my pilgrimage to Dad's birthplace. We paid homage to my grandfather who was interred in the hills overlooking a valley with mountains in the background. It reminded me of the TV show *The Waltons*. Dad showed me the Hong Kong location where his father made his fortune after returning from the goldmines in Australia. In 1900 Hong Kong, he successfully opened the first major department store in China that still exist, Sincere Department.

Over the next ten years, Dad connected with family members, feverishly writing in beautiful Chinese calligraphy and collecting information. Dad made copies of his findings for every family member, including oversea cousins in Australia saying, "one

day you will understand where you are from and the history."

Growing up, I use to hear my Dad be called by various names but never questioned why. Once, Dad left for a day or two because of his last name. Later, I found out that he had a Paper Name. During the '50s, he either confessed, or the government discovered this, and his immigration documents were filed in the Government A-Files as a result.

After retiring, I attended the Chinese Family History Group and eventually went to Henry Tom's Chinese American Genealogy Workshop in Las Vegas. I grabbed my Dad's book just in case I needed it. After a few guest speakers, I realized all of the attendees are looking to find their family genealogy and I had mine sitting in my lap—all I had to do was update my genealogy book by adding my children and grandchildren as the 27th and 28th generations.

I returned to my hotel room and began reading the stories that my Dad included in his book. I knew he had a first wife named Frances Lowe who bore my brother. She was born in Portland, Oregon but lived in China when her father retired. They met and fell in love.





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Due to the turmoil in China in the mid-30's, they decided to leave China for America. Unfortunately, Frances was unable to bring her husband due to the Chinese Exclusion Act even though she held a U.S. Birth Certificate. Dad was forced to purchase a Paper Name—Lau Quin Young—at a cost of \$5,700!

Dad and Frances set sail aboard the U.S.S. Queen Elizabeth in August of 1938 as Japan was invading China. In Dad's book he also shares his experience on the ship where he and Frances were forced to be tested for hookworm; immigrants testing positive were denied entry to the U.S. Due to being too seasick to adequately provide a sample, Dad purchased two vials from a shipman for \$10 apiece. In Seattle, Dad and Frances earned a living caring for a doctor's home and

family. They worked six days a week earning a \$1 a day for my Dad and 50¢ for Frances who also spent time teaching Dad English.

When Frances was pregnant, Dad found a better job in New York's Chinatown where he learned how to cook. Dad wrote about the discrimination, hardships, and unforgiving bigotry they faced along with Chinese Americans during the Exclusion Act. Once, a customer remarked to him, "Chinese must not like to have sex." Dad barked back, "That was the reward granted by the U.S. Immigration Law." He mentioned in his journal that the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) assisted with immigration and civil right issues.

Ever since I returned from that first China trip in 1989 and discovered what Dad left behind for us, I refer to a couple of pictures I captured after climbing down the hill from my grandfather's grave site: a rickety old bridge across a stream with a woman watering her farm using water buckets hanging from a bamboo pole held across her shoulders. I think about how easily that woman could have been me. Dad sacrificed and took a chance with his wealth wishing for a brighter life and future. He lived long enough to see his grandchildren and great-grandchildren flourish. Two of his great-grandsons bear the name Mar as part of their middle name, but my Dad's last wish is that one day their Paper Name Lau is dropped.



Pictured above: Frances Lowe. Frances Lowe passed away just before World War II. Several months later dad joined the Merchant Marines (on previous page) and was trained to service and supply the military ships in San Francisco. Due to his experience cooking and caring for young children, he was stationed on Catalina Island serving the general's family. The Lowe family cared for the general's young son Edmond in Los Angeles.

Call for submissions!

December 2018 marked the 75th anniversary of the Magnuson Act which repealed aspects of the Chinese Exclusion Act and allowed limited numbers of Chinese people to immigrate to the United States. To commemorate this event, the CHSSC welcomes you to share how the exclusionary laws directly or indirectly impacted your family's story.

If interested, please send a written piece (50-250 words) to info@chssc.org accompanied by a relevant photo.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: info@chssc.org
Website: www.chssc.org

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Email us to indicate your preference for an online newsletter at info@chssc.org

Community Calendar

February 5, 2019

Lunar New Year—Year of the Pig

恭喜发财!

February 6-7, 8-9, 2019

LA Philharmonic Lunar New Year Celebration

Usher in the Year of the Pig with a special Chinese New Year celebration by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, including an electrifying performance by violinist Ray Chen (Feb 6-7) and a new work by Tan Dun led by Gustavo Dudamel (Feb 8-9). Use code FORTUNE for a discount up to 30%. Details on laphil.com/events.

Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 7, 2019—7:00PM-9:00PM

Lightscares: Re-envisioning the Shanshuihua (Chinese landscape painting) Opening Reception

Featuring new media works and immersive light-based installations from contemporary Taiwanese artists Nick Dong and Wu Chi Tsung. This installation is inspired by the techniques and philosophies of Chinese landscape ink paintings, bringing forward new interpretations. Free.

425 N. Los Angeles St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 9, 2019—1:00PM-3:00PM

Golden Dragon Parade

See page 5 for more details.

February 16, 2019—11:00AM-8:00PM

San Gabriel Lunar New Year Festival

The festival will consist of a street food fair, market place, carnival games, chalk art contest, and a kid zone. Free admission.
Historic Mission District
320 S. Mission Dr.
San Gabriel, CA 91776

February 17, 2019 —2:00PM-3:00PM

Talk and Book Signing: *Mei Ling in China City*

Author Icy Smith and illustrator Gayle Garner Roski discuss their book *Mei Ling in China City*, based on a true story set in Los Angeles during World War II. The story revolves around the friendship between a Chinese American girl named Mei Ling Lee and her Japanese American friend, Yayeko Akiyama, who was interned with her family in the Manzanar War Relocation Center. Suitable for all ages, free.

Rothenberg Hall, Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

March 2, 2019—12:00PM to 5:00PM

Chinese American Museum 18th Annual Lantern Festival

This family-friendly event culminates the Lunar New Year celebration and will be highlighted by cultural entertainment, interactive educational activities, and partnerships with local community-based organizations.

El Pueblo Historical Monument

125 Paseo de la Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012