

MARCH 2019

March monthly meeting speaker: Reverend Dr. Ken Fong

Rev. Dr. Ken Fong was a nationally respected leader and pioneer during his decades as the pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles (Rosemead). After he and director Christopher Wong launched “Asian America: The Ken Fong Podcast,” Ken decided to retire from being a pastor because hosting and co-producing their podcast allowed him to harness his curiosity by engaging with a diverse array of Asian American culture-makers and culture-shapers.

Ken Fong’s podcasts come in many different forms, depending on the aim of the creators. Christopher’s and Ken’s podcasts are guest-centric, introducing their national and global audience to the origins of each guest, before moving onto explore the guest’s passions and convictions.

Ken will be demonstrating his skills while interviewing community representatives. Also, he will be sharing some memories of his favorite interviews with CACA past-presidents Winston Wu and Annie Yee.



L-R: Susan Dickson, Margie Yee, and Bill Yee after the parade.

Lunar New Year Parade Memories by Bill Yee

My older brother Johnny Yee was one of the Charter members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Johnny served in the Navy during the Second World War and started to collect American flags. Later, this collection would be used by the CHSSC to march with at Lunar New Year parades in LA Chinatown, San Francisco, Marysville, and San Gabriel. His collection continued to grow. From the beginning, Johnny would march yearly with a sibling, niece, nephew, or in-law.

Eugene Moy has since undertaken the task of taking care of the flags. Currently, my family and I participate in the parades. This year, my wife, Margie, and I held the CHSSC banner while our great-grandson, Kayden, 4, marched along. Kayden has been participating in the parade since he was one-year-old and our granddaughter, Melodee, pushed him in a carriage. When he reached two-years-old, he was in a stroller. At three-

years-old, he walked halfway and his mom carried him the rest of the way, but this year he completed the full length of the parade.

We are so thankful that CHSSC has continued to participate in the Lunar New Year Parade to show the world that we are proud to be American.

CHSSC will be meeting at the CACA Lodge:

Wednesday, March 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.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

MARCH 2019

President's Letter

On April 27th, 2019, the CHSSC's 2019 Golden Spike Awards Dinner will be held at Ocean Star Restaurant in Monterey Park. This year's theme is "Giving Voice to the Community."

Purpose:

- Recognize and honor Chinese American writers and editors
- Raise operating funds for 2019

How You Can Help:

- Sponsor a table
- Attend the award dinner
- Place an advertisement in the program book
- Donate Silent Auction items valued at \$25 or more
- Participate in the raffle



Although our Capital Campaign has enjoyed remarkable success, we still need to keep the lights on at our Heritage Center and pay personnel. I hope you can support our awards dinner.

Sincerely,
Susan Dickson

Special thanks to:

Betty and Timothy Tseng, donors
Bill & Margie Chun-Hoon, major donor

The CHSSC's Capital Campaign continues; to donate visit our website at chssc.org.

February Meeting Recap

John Jung discussed some of the factors that pushed Chinese in the 1870s from the west coast to regions where no or few Chinese lived, the hinterlands. Most Chinese did not have the means to move on their own but labor contractors hired and escorted thousands of Chinese to the hinterlands to build railroads or replace striking whites. Thousands of Chinese were led to the hinterlands by whites seeking domestic servants. Other Chinese had no help in fleeing to the hinterlands to escape racist violence stemming from white fears that Chinese were taking their jobs, had contagious diseases, or would marry White women. Chinese in the hinterlands were excluded from many occupations so they created their own businesses with laundries, grocery stores, and restaurants. These pioneers became anchors to assist others to come to the hinterlands.

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Laureen Hom
Henry Leong
Winifred Lew
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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.

MARCH 2019

California Historical Society Boomtowns Exhibit—January 31

The California Historical Society has opened an exhibition at its San Francisco headquarters entitled *Boomtowns: How Photography Shaped Los Angeles and San Francisco*. It's an exhibition of historic photographs from their extensive collections that document the early growth of these two cities. Included are many early images of SF and LA Chinatowns. The SF panel on included former CHSSC board members Jenny Cho and Will Gow, as well as familiar names like Eddie Wong and Judy Wu. Thanks to Jenny and Will for their recognizing CHSSC's strong programs.

Save Our Chinatown Lunar New Year Banquet—February 2

A full table of CHSSC members attended the annual fundraising banquet for Riverside's Save Our Chinatown Committee (SOCC). In addition to the festivities that included a lion dance, eight-course banquet, and a silent and live auction, we heard a progress report from the California State University San Bernadino students who have been working on the digitization of the Chinese immigration files at the Perris (Riverside Co.) Regional branch of the National Archives. The CHSSC is the sponsor of the digitization project with the National Archives, with SOCC and CSUSB as partners.



Eugene Moy spoke at Camarillo Library to a full house on Chinese railroad workers.

Discovering French American Heritage in Chinatown—February 7

A group of French-speaking LA residents visited CHSSC and were greeted by CHSSC president Susan Dickson. Our Bernard Street homes were built and occupied in the 1880's by Philip Fritz and his family, who immigrated from the Alsace region of France. Some of our CHSSC members were born at the historic French Hospital on Hill Street.



Front row seat at CHSSC

Golden Dragon Parade—February 9

Once again, the CHSSC led off as the first marching unit with an array of nearly 150 American flags. In addition to our 20 hardy CHSSC flag and banner carriers, led again by Will Yuen at point, we were augmented by an energetic contingent of Interact/Rotaract members from high schools in Rotary International District 5280: West Torrance High, Southeast High, Lennox Math Science and Technology Academy, Culver City High, Fairfax High, and many others (apologies for missing any schools). Our thanks to Rotary coordinators Jermaine Ee and Gerardo Jaramillo.

Ventura County Chinese Cultural Association and Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society (VCCAHS) program – February 19

Eugene Moy provided a slide presentation on the role of Chinese labor in Building the First Transcontinental Railroad and Building America to a full house at the Camarillo Library. CHSSC and VCCAHS have enjoyed a great relationship over the years.

School tours

- February 12: CHSSC docent Linda Chong led a walking tour of Chinatown for 20 high school students from the Anaheim Hills area in conjunction with their visit to the Chinese American Museum. Teacher Charlene Chiu has been bringing her Mandarin language classes to Chinatown for a number of years to provide Chinese American history background in addition to teaching Chinese language and history.
- February 20: CHSSC docents Linda Chong and Eugene Moy, with assistance from Cindy Fong, led a class of 27 third graders from Los Encinos School in Encino, on a cultural tour of Chinatown, ending with lunch at a local restaurant.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Annual Golden Spike Awards Gala *Giving Voice to the Community*

Saturday, April 27, 2019 beginning at 6:00pm

Ocean Star Restaurant

145 North Atlantic Boulevard, #201-203

Monterey Park, CA 91754

Recognizing:

Russell Leong

Editor: *Amerasia Journal*; professor; award-winning author

Frank Shyong

Journalist, *Los Angeles Times*

Oliver Wang

Music reviewer for National Public Radio; professor at California State University, Long Beach

Elaine Woo

Former *Los Angeles Times* journalist and editor

Helen Zia

Author: *Last Boat Out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao's Revolution*; editor: *Ms. Magazine*; activist

I wish to (be a):

☐ Silver Table Sponsor \$1,250

☐ Gold Table Sponsor \$5,000

☐ Diamond Table Sponsor \$10,000

Sponsor Name: _____

Please list guest names: _____

OR

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

Please attach any seating requests.

☐ 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 (____) _____

☐ 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 _____ 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 or phoned in during regular business hours Mon -Fri 10:30AM-2:30PM at: (323) 222-0856.



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Saturday, April 27, 2019 beginning at 6:00pm

Ocean Star Restaurant

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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: March 29th, 2019. File Type: JPEG, 300 dpi)**

- Back Cover \$1,000 – 8 1/2" w x 11" h
- Inside Cover \$750 – 8 1/2" w x 11" 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

* All submissions must be in 300 dpi resolution

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



Jeanie Woo's grandparents with the Berean Bible School students. It is the only photo she has of them together. Carrie has "Mom" and Tom Yee has "Dad" above their heads..

Tom Yee Woo, "Paper" Son 1893-1927

By CHSSC member Jeanie Woo

TOM Hung Yee was born in 1893 in Chal Wah Lei Village, Kwangtung Province. I never knew him, but I have devoted much of my life to his legacy. Many years before I was born, he and my Caucasian grandmother passed and took with them a secret that they held close to their hearts.

When I was a child, my father told me I was $\frac{1}{4}$ Chinese and that my grandfather had emigrated from China as a "paper" son. Because of the restrictive Chinese Exclusion Laws, his father pretended to be the son of a legal Chinese resident and was admitted as *Woo Yuk Poy*. In Gum Saan, he became known as *Tom Yee Woo*. Sadly my father did not know Tom Yee's native Chinese name, where he came from, or anything about his family.

My grandmother, Carrie Deardorff, was a teacher at the Berean Bible School in Los Angeles where she fell in love with Tom Yee, a student at the school. They eloped in 1917, relocated in Virginia and thought their hopes and dreams were being realized until the Virginia Acts of Assembly were passed in 1924. Suddenly, individuals were required to register

their racial composition and it was unlawful for any white person to marry a non-white person.

When I married in 1966, the law persisted and I eloped to North Carolina because I am $\frac{1}{4}$ Chinese and thus not allowed to marry in Virginia. While the Magnuson Act repealed the Chinese Exclusion Laws in 1943, the Virginia Acts of Assembly were not repealed until 1967.

Tom Yee and Carrie lived in fear that his true identity might result in deportation and their interracial marriage might result in punishment by Virginia law. So they kept his true identity a secret from all but a few until their deaths in 1927 and 1936.

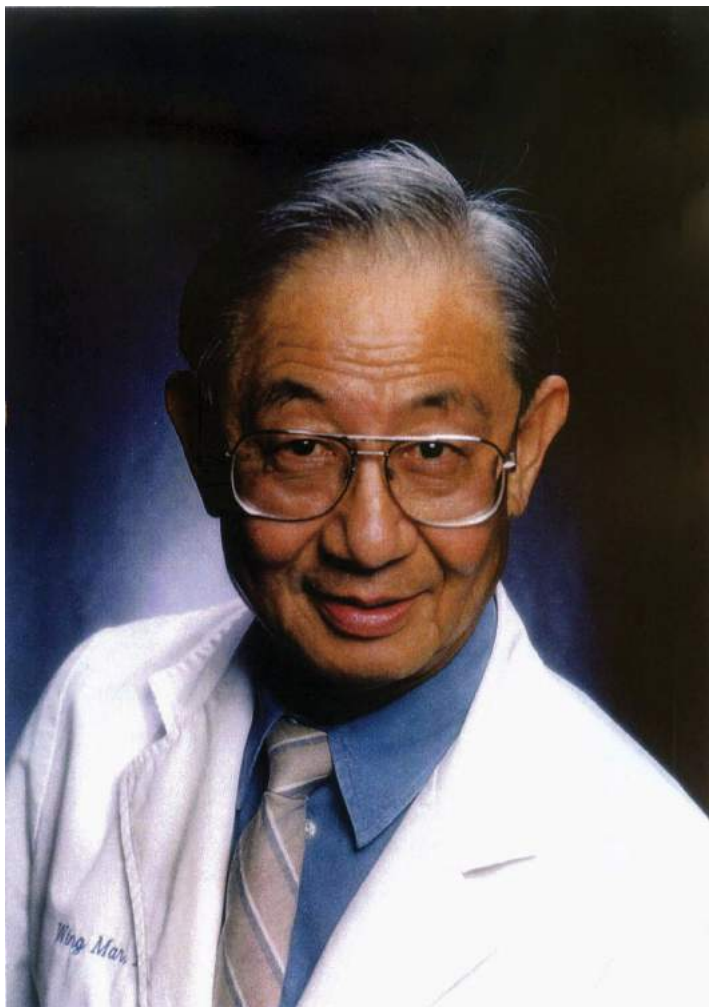
Call for submissions!

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 photo.



Dr. Wing Yin Mar: A Volunteer at Heart and Fund Raiser Extraordinaire (1924-2019) by L.P. Leung



In 2015, with the support of his beloved wife Joyce, brother Ken and his children, Wing Mar completed a 135-page memoir of his amazing *Life's Journey*. His son Jeffry sums up his father's life as "a labor of love that chronicles what should be seen as a Chinese-American version of the story of America's greatest generation: immigration intrigue (being the son of a paper-son); Depression-era survival; family tragedy and drama; WW II Army infantryman; overcoming barriers; and leaving a lasting mark."

Wing was an active member in the community he lived in. From participating in the Torrance area Indian Guides with his son Jeffry to eventually

raising funds to acquire and build a million dollar YMCA building. His success in fund raising for non-profit organizations is due to his persistent and persevering drive to reach his goal.

As he reached retirement from his medical practice, Wing renewed his interest in Chinese-American history. He and his wife were founding members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC). His volunteerism played a major role in two of CHSSC's key projects.

I first met Wing sometime in the early 1990's. My in-laws invited me to attend a Board meeting of CHSSC. The main discussion of the meeting was to search for funds to pay off the final huge mortgage payment on the two houses in Chinatown where the society is located. Wing asked me to volunteer to help him raise funds. That was the beginning of our friendship. The fund raising was successful, and the mortgage was paid in full.

In 1999, Chinese scientist Dr. W.H. Lee was wrongfully accused of being a spy for Communist China. All the Chinese-American scientists who worked in our defense industry felt indirectly indicted also. Knowing the tremendous contributions of Chinese-American scientists since the 1930's to our national defense, weaponry and medical science research was not recognized by our country, we proposed the *Portraits of Pride* project to the Board. The goal was to tell America the suppressed history of many amazing contributions of Chinese-Americans. For the next ten years or so, we worked to publish *Portrait of Pride* and *Portraits of Pride II*. The books portrayed the positive contributions of Chinese-Americans. Wing wanted to place the books in high school libraries. However, that was not an easy task because of the red tape in the approval process of the school system and the limitation of available funds. So, Wing put his fund-raising hat on and raised money to allow CHSSC to donate the books to the libraries. About 15,000 copies were donated to libraries throughout the United States. Wing was extremely happy to receive many letters of appreciation from librarians and students.

Wing's legacy will live on.



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

Thursday, March 7, 2019—6:30 PM

Panel: *Survival and Loss: A Joint Discussion of San Francisco and Los Angeles Chinatowns*

A second panel of scholars associated with the California Historical Society's *Boomtowns* exhibit in S.F. has been scheduled for Southern California and will be co-sponsored by the Chinese American Museum. The panel will include USC professor Nayan Shah, Visual Communications co-founder Eddie Wong, artist and curator Steven Wong, and UC Irvine professor Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, and will be moderated by UC Riverside professor Cathy Gudis. Admission is free, pay parking in lots on Main Street.

La Plaza de Cultura y Artes Museum
501 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Saturday, March 16, 2019—1:00PM-4:00PM

NEA Big Read Los Angeles film screening and discussion: *Chinatown—The Reel/Real Story*

LAPL has organized a discussion and screening of the 1974 film by Roman Polanski and starring Jack Nicholson. Subject librarians will highlight the movie's narrative, while our archives committee chair Linda Bentz has organized a display documenting Chinese American and Chinatown history. Eugene Moy will be assisting with commentary. Program is free, underground parking from Flower Street.

LA Public Library, Central Library—Mark Taper Auditorium
630 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Saturday, March 23, 2019—10AM-12PM

Chinese Family History Group March meeting

Marisa Louie Lee will demonstrate how to search for records relating to those who immigrated during and after the Chinese Exclusion period. She'll talk about accessing Alien Files ("A-Files"), Chinese partnership case files, and more. Her presentation will conclude with some exciting moments as she shares records she has discovered on behalf of CFHGSC members.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
415 Bamboo Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sunday, April 7, 2019—2:00PM

Helen Zia, book talk and signing: *Last Boat Out of Shanghai*

Helen Zia's latest work documents the real life stories for four young people caught up in the amss exodus of Shanghai in the wake of China's 1949 Communist revolution—a heartrending precursor to the struggles faced by emigrants today. Please register a space at : <https://goo.gl/forms/oPG8dbbKm5e7MKas1>
Opening remarks by Congresswoman Judy Chu (U.S. CA-27)

Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library
318 S. Ramona Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California's 2019 Golden Spike Award: Giving Voice to the Community

Ocean Star Restaurant
145 North Atlantic Boulevard, #201-302
Monterey Park, CA 91754