

FEBRUARY 2020

Author and Filmmaker Arthur Dong featured at February's Monthly Meeting

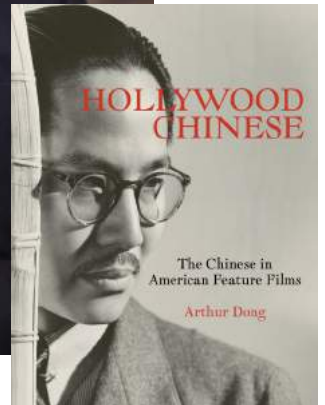
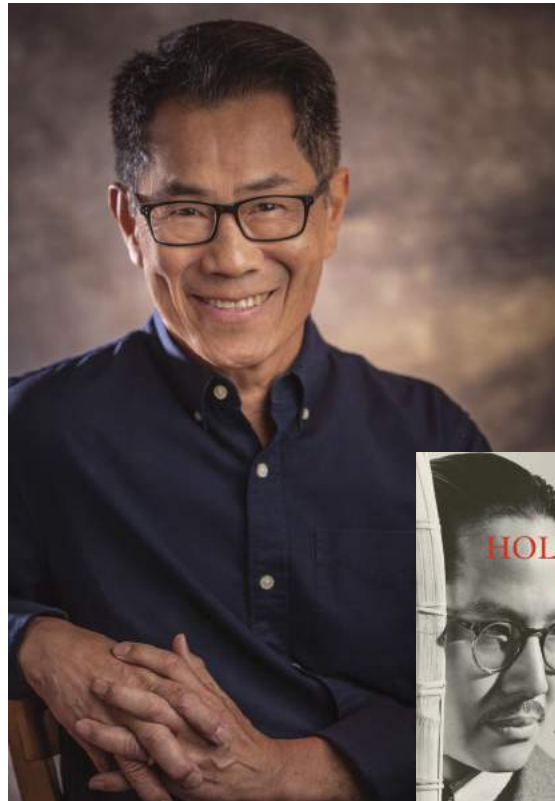
Arthur Dong discusses and signs his new book Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

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 chssc1975@gmail.com



Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films presents an intimate look at the Chinese American role and influence in Hollywood, from some of the earliest films set in America's Chinatowns to the contemporary artists remaking the face of Hollywood. Filled with more than 500 stunning, vintage photographs, movie posters, lobby cards and assorted ephemera based on the author's extraordinary personal collection, this lavish coffee-table book's richly illustrated pages show the myths, misconceptions, and memorable moments of the Chinese in film.

Author and filmmaker Arthur Dong takes the reader on a guided tour of Chinese American film history, from the hyper-stereotyped portrayals of Chinatown Tong Wars to the exoticized romances starring glamorous actresses like Anna May Wong and Nancy Kwan. He highlights the issues and challenges of Hollywood's history, including the controversial casting of white actors in Asian roles, known as "yellowface." Richly detailed and comprehensive in scope, *Hollywood Chinese* shows

how the industry has evolved, beginning with *War of the Tongs* (1917), billed to white audiences as "planned and executed by the Chinese" and ending with *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018), the first film with an all-Asian cast in a quarter century.

Throughout the book, Dong unearths hidden gems from film history, documenting the Chinese and Chinese American actors, screenwriters, directors and producers who worked in Hong Kong, Taipei, San Francisco and elsewhere, producing spectacular films in both Chinese and English for global audiences. All but lost to history, those films have been carefully uncovered and presented here. Dong's narrative is enhanced by extensive interviews with Hollywood actors, directors, and producers, including Ang Lee, Nancy Kwan, Justin Lin, James Hong, Joan Chen, Wayne Wang, and David Henry Hwang, and writer Amy Tan.

For more information about the book visit www.angelcitypress.com/products/hchi.



President's Letter

Happy New Year! As 2020 begins, we begin our efforts to encourage our current members to renew and increase our membership. The past year CHSSC was very productive. Once again CHSSC members marched in the Lunar New Year parade, held the 8th annual Yosemite-Sing Peak Pilgrimage, continued our monthly meetings in Chinatown, and conducted walking tours of Chinatown. At the same time our fundraising efforts to improve the Heritage Houses were very successful. Our internship program continues to expand our possibilities of expanding the use of our significant archives and our library.

Our membership levels are **Senior/Student, 100x100, Regular,** and **Diamond.** Each of these memberships represents a different level of support. All of these memberships include receiving our *News 'N Notes* and a *Gum Saan Journal*. Since the Senior/Student membership fee barely covers our costs, we hope that you will not only renew, but you will consider upgrading your membership level or donating additional funds to CHSSC.

The **Life Membership** level was discontinued more than 10 years ago. While our current Life Members continue to receive the monthly newsletter, their membership doesn't include the *Gum Saan Journal*. Since our 2020 *Gum Saan Journal* about WWII is very special, think about buying it on our website or at a monthly meeting.

JOIN NOW!

Susan Dickson
CHSSC President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wendy Chung

Cindy Fong

Laureen Hom

Winifred Lew

Franklin Mah

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



Cynthia Carter
Oilin Chan Briggs
Patricia C. Dung

Friends of the Culver City Library
Anna Gee
Dolly Gee
Susan Go

Gordon Hom for the refrigerator
Linda Kim

Sophie Lafferty for the new rug
Alexander Lock

Peter J. McDonald
Patricia Mu and family
Ruth Seid Yue
Bill Yee

IMO William Chun Hoon: Gordon J. Mau

IMO of Isobel Lew: Chong Lew, special thanks

IMO Cy Wong: Kenneth Chan
IMO Kwan Ying and Gin C. Young:
Cynthia Ng Young and Gary Young
IMO Milton Quon: Kelly Chan

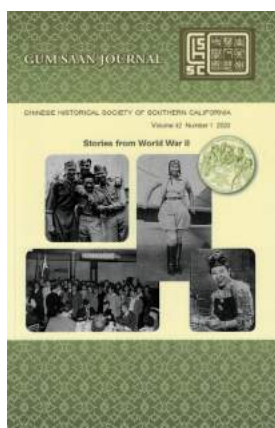
And a special thank you to:
An anonymous donor, and Winston & Joanne Young



FEBRUARY 2020

The 2020 Gum Saan Journal: Remembering WWII

By Susie Ling



Gum Saan Journal 2020 is a true gem. It includes 10 first-person stories of World War II soldiers, and 5 stories from women of that era. "The timing is fated," said editor Susie Ling. "2020 is when Chinese American veterans will finally get their Congressional Gold Medal. At the same time, CHSSC had just digitized and archived our Duty and Honor collection from the 1990s. We are so honored to tell of the contributions of Chinese Americans during World War II. Their sacrifices changed the trajectory of our history."

Every story is compelling. The first is about 15th Air Force's Fred Gong, who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. And there are stories

like that of Jay Sue Nin who got shell-shocked while on kitchen duty in Guadalcanal and Solomon Islands. Jim Wah Gee served in the U.S. Navy; he was so impressed with the North American fighters that he became an aeronautical engineer with his G.I. Bill. Marian Lee Leng volunteered for the Chinese Canteen, while Margie was waiting for her Albert Lew to come home safe.

January Outreach

December 12th—Interview by KTLA-TV This past New Year's Day, local TV station KTLA broadcast its annual coverage of the Rose Parade. Because the parade included a float sponsored by the Chinese American Heritage Foundation which highlighted the role of Chinese American veterans during World War II, KTLA contacted the CHSSC ahead of time to learn more about this history. We referred director Jon Stout to our own Marjorie Lee, project director of the CHSSC's history gathering effort that led to the production of our 1998 book, *Duty and Honor: A Tribute to Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California*. Marjorie and WWII veteran Hiram Kwan were interviewed by KTLA's Frank Buckley at Hiram's law offices, and a 3 minute clip was broadcast by KTLA: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zu84nef709e5qkj/PKG%20%20CHINESE%20AMERICAN%20MEDAL.mov?dl=0>. Thanks to Marji and Hiram for elevating the awareness of our history!

January 7th—Culver City Friends of Library Inspired by the writings of Lisa See, an enthusiastic group came to see Chinatown history and culture. Eight Friends of Library members came for an

exploratory tour, which they greatly enjoyed, and will be planning further engagement. In

the meantime, Lisa See will be speaking at the Culver City Julian Dixon Library at 6:30 pm Saturday April 4th. <https://www.facebook.com/events/489970865249097/>

January 14th —Logos Seminary A group of 14 adult students who had convened at Logos Seminary in El Monte was invited to tour Chinatown by instructor Dr. Tim Tseng, Pacific Area Director of Graduate and Faculty Ministries of the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship. Their goal, as future leaders in communities, was to learn more about Chinatown family issues, and to understand the connections between the Chinese community and surrounding contexts. Eugene Moy led the tour with assistance from new member Howard Wang, a retired college administrator and professor who has previously taught in China, and Yuan-Ning Chu, a Ph.D candidate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who is presently a visiting scholar at the USC Korean Studies Institute. We had great interactive dialogue.

PHOTO DAY

We are going on another trip down memory lane: help us identify names and places in photographs from our archives.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, February 29, 2020
10:00AM-12:00PM
415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

*parking available on property.



Pictured: Lynn (second from left) stands with three of her sons: (from left) Cliff, Curtis, and Chris.

January Meeting Recap: Lynn Choy Narm Uyeda Gin's Five Names

Lynn Choy Narm Uyeda Gin's talk about her interesting life included vintage photos of her family, her volunteer work, and her professional career. Lynn was raised in a group home for Chinese girls in Los Gatos, a Bay Area suburb while her mother, an actress, travelled extensively. After moving to Los Angeles, she graduated from Belmont High School in Los Angeles.

As a young mother of 4 boys, Lynn founded her own Public Relations and Marketing Communications firm with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. As her boys grew, she actively supported the Chinatown Drum and Bugle Corps for 4 or 5 years as a member of their parent auxiliary group. These parents constantly held fundraising events and chaperoned the corps members when they performed.

In 1974 Lynn co-founded the Asian Business Association where she met many important business owners and politicians. During this time, Lynn became a delegate to the White House conference of business-owners. She started another company, Talking Points, training corporate executives and others on how to give public presentations and appear "On camera" for news media.

In 1999 Lynn retired for the first time. Soon she got recruited by the Department of Commerce to help train people for the 2000 Census. Two years later, she retired again and married Henry Gin. In 2010, she was hired to work on the census in PR.

Lynn retired for the last time in 2012. Now as a Personal Historian, she assists others in documenting their own personal and family histories.



Thank you to:

**Winifred Lew, Doreen Nakayama,
Phoenix Bakery, and Judy Sai**

for their tasty donations at the January
Monthly Meeting!





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
chssc1975@gmail.com • (323) 222-0856 •
www.chinesehistoricalsociety.org



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.
- ◆ A significant research library.
- ◆ Maintain an archive consisting of oral histories, archaeological collections, photographs and family histories.



☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership levels:

☐ Silver \$ 57.

☐ 100x100 Club \$100.

☐ Diamond \$ 300.

☐ Senior (60+) or student \$ 32.

Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

To join or renew your membership by credit card
visit our website at www.chinesehistoricalsociety.org

Please make checks payable to CHSSC.

☐ Check here if you would like the newsletter mailed to your home.

☐ Check here if you would like the newsletter sent via email.

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



Emile Cy Wong

December 11, 1937 - November 30, 2019

A Friend's Remembrance of Cy Wong

by Ann Lau

at Cy Wong's Celebration of Life
on December 14, 2019

at First Baptist Church, 1116 Amulet Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

"Mr. Wong!" That's how people in Los Angeles Chinatown called Cy. When they share the same last name, they would call each other cousins. My mother was a Wong, so Cy and I could be cousins.

I met Cy when he first joined the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California years ago.

When Cy joined the Historical Society Board, the Society was facing a financial fiasco. A major fundraising had to commence. Cy seek me out as I was one of the founding Board members. I suggested that he approach some of my Chinese-American friends and acquaintances. As a result, most obliged. My strategy being that if Cy as an African-Chinese-American volunteered his time, the least they should do would be to make a donation.

Cy was fearlessly proud of his multi-ethnic heritage, and had a great influence on many of us.

The Historical Society owed Cy a great debt for all his dedicated volunteer works including giving tours of LA Chinatown, fixing the 100 years old houses used as Society headquarters, bringing in new members as Membership Chair, co-chairing fundraisers and more.

In 2000, Cy convinced me to rejoin the board to help move the Board forward. Two years later, in 2002, I in turn convinced Cy to run as the President and I agreed to run as his Vice-President.

As the executive team we bonded as we shared the many challenges, frustrations and triumph in trying to push through changes and improvements

within the Society. We successfully converted the Society garage as an archival facility through some major hurdles. Cy's leadership was invaluable.

Our mutual goal was to bring out the contributions of Chinese-Americans to the United States in giving Chinese-Americans a place in our shared history.

We also shared the many milestones of our respective families; Betty's* work at the schools, Faith going off to college, Faith starting her own business, and Faith getting married. His family was his proudest legacy.

When our daughter's wedding date coincided with Faith's plan for Cy and Betty's 50th wedding anniversary celebration, my husband and I convinced our daughter to move her wedding a week earlier, and she did.

Cy, I know you are up there listening. We thank God for putting you in our path. It was a privilege and an honor to count you as a friend. Thank you for being a part of our lives. Thank you for sharing your wonderful family.

Thank you for making those fried cornmeal cat fish nugget during the Society open houses.

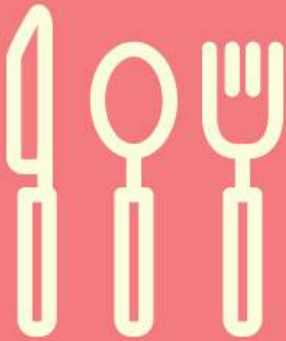
I surely miss those cat fish nuggets.

Yes, Cy, I do miss you as well. With God's mercy and blessings, perhaps we shall be able to continue our friendship up there.

*Author Note: Betty was Cy's wife. Faith is Cy's daughter.

2020 GOLDEN SPIKE

The CHSSC is recognizing legacy food businesses who have enriched Asian-American culinary traditions in Southern California.



HONORING:

Phoenix Bakery.....est. 1938
Santa Ana Food Market.....est. 1949
New Moon Restaurant.....est. 1953
David Chan.....eaten @ 7,500+ Chinese restaurants

Yosemite Pilgrimage | Sing Peak Backpack

July 30-August 2, 2020 | August 3-5, 2020

E-mail chssc1975@gmail.com for more details.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc1975@gmail.com
Website: www.chinesehistoricalsociety.org

Please help us save paper and postage,
Email us to indicate your preference for an online newsletter at info@chssc.org

Community Calendar

Wednesday, February 15-16, 2020

Honoring Bill Chun-Hoon at the Firecracker Run 2020

We are working with the Chun-Hoon family to honor Bill at our Firecracker event in 2020. Bill has always supported Firecracker in the years past. Bill participated in the 5k until he was unable to participate any longer.

In 2020, the 5k Walk will be dedicated to his memory. The Chun-Hoon family will walk in his memory. We are also inviting anyone else who would like to join the family in the walk. We have created a discount code for the Walk for anyone who would like to join the family: **BchunHoon (for a 10% discount)**.

In addition, when anyone registers for the 5k Walk, they are able to make a donation. Any donations made when they register for the 5k Walk will be donated to organizations the Chun-Hoon family have chosen: Friends of the Chinatown Library, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, and the Chinese American Museum.

For more information and registration: firecracker10k.org/info

943 N. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday, February 20, 2020—7:30PM-8:30PM

The Making of a Medium: Borrowing Views from Painting and Fiction in Early Modern Chinese Garden Design

S.E. Kile, assistant professor of Chinese literature at the University of Michigan, examines the first two Chinese works that considered garden design as an art: Ji Cheng's *Yuanye* (*Fashioning Gardens*, 1631-34) and Li Yu's *Xianqing ouji* (*Leisure Notes*, 1671). By excavating the garden's relationship to other art forms, Kile presents an account of the garden as a medium of artistic expression in early modern China. Free, no reservations required.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum & Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Saturday, February 29, 2020—8:30PM

"Unscholarly" Gardens: Rethinking the Gardens of China

Exploring "unscholarly" spaces, this symposium challenges common assumptions about what makes a garden in China. For tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4455006.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum & Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Saturday, February 29, 2020—10:15AM (Santa Ana); 7:00PM (LA)

Chinatown Rising documentary film

Against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-1960s, a young San Francisco Chinatown resident armed with a 16mm camera and leftover film scraps from a local TV station, turned his lens onto his community. Totalling more than 20,000 feet of film (10 hours), Harry Chuck's exquisite unreleased footage has captured a divided community's struggles for self-determination. *Chinatown Rising* is a documentary film about the Asian-American Movement from the perspective of the young residents on the front lines of their historic neighborhood in transition. Through publicly challenging the conservative views of their elders, their demonstrations and protests of the 1960s-1980s rattled the once quiet streets during the community's shift in power. Forty-five years later, in intimate interviews these activists recall their roles and experiences in response to the need for social change. Go to chinatownrising.com for more information and tickets.

Frida Cinema (10:15AM showing)
305 E. 4th St, #100
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Vista Theatre (7:00PM showing)
4473 Sunset Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Saturday, February 29, 2020—10:00AM-12:00PM

Photo Day

Join the CHSSC as we go through photos from our archives to recognize any unlabeled names or places. Unidentified will be organized and examined to see if we can add new information to our collection and history. Light refreshments will be provided.

CHSSC Visitor's Center
415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012