

MARCH 2020

Wednesday, March 4, 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 info@chssc.org

March Monthly Meeting: 150 Years of Chinese Workers in Salmon Canneries

Back in the Gold Rush days, in 1852, William Hum, an adventurous young man, 19 years old, travelled from Maine to California by way of Panama. He did not come to prospect for gold; but made a living by fishing in the Sacramento River. A few years later, he and his brothers, John and George, and a friend, Andrew Hapgood, founded the first salmon cannery on the west bank of the Sacramento River. In 1870, George Hume hired the first 15 Chinese workers for their cannery on the Columbia, thus beginning a four-decades-long Chinese dominance in the labor market of the salmon canning industry. Each year, thousands of Chinese migrant workers labored in canneries that dotted the Pacific Coast from California to Alaska. Before WWII, the salmon canneries employed more Chinese than most other industries in the US. This year, 2020, marks the 150th anniversary since the first group of Chinese cannery workers was employed back in 1870.

Speakers Jim and Philip Chiao spent 3 summers working in Alaska canneries during their college years; and have personally experienced the life of cannery workers in the early 1970s. Recently, they have documented their Alaska experiences in a blog on their website. They will take the audience on a guided historical tour of Chinese American and



Chinese workers in the canning industry. They will trace the beginning of the industry, the expansion and dominance of Chinese workers in the labor market, and its eventual demise. Along the way, they will highlight the major events/stories that shaped the industry and affected the Chinese workers, such as the Hume brothers who started the first canneries and set the precedent of hiring Chinese laborers, the formation of the cannery town Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River, the invention of the “Iron Chink” that displaced Chinese butchers, and the majestic sailing ships from APA’s Star Fleet that carried Chinese cannery workers back and forth between San Francisco and Alaska.

For more information about the personal stories of the speakers in Alaska canneries, the “China gang”, and other Chinese workers, please visit their website:
<https://chinesecannerylaborers.home.blog/>



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

MARCH 2020



Walking Tour with Las Encinas Elementary

Wednesday, February 12 dawned bright and warm. Alpine Recreation Center was the staging point for a vivacious group of 22 second and third graders from Las Encinas Elementary School read to begin a tour of Los Angeles Chinatown. Veteran Linda Chong and newbie Cindy Fong led a 1 1/2 hour tour, splitting the group in half so that shouting wasn't necessary. The students were mesmerized by the Chinese Temple, played with Cathy Bank's abacuses, and stared at Superior Poultry's pictures of 7 kinds of chicken and a solitary rabbit. They continued with a visit to the West Plaza, its fountain and statues of Dr. Sun Yet Sen and Bruce Lee, all of it new to them. Touring a traditional Chinese herb store, they stared at various bins and jars of preserved goods, recognizing boxes of tea and cookies. Finishing with lunch at Ocean Restaurant, they had a great time!



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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 2020



Golden Dragon Parade:

For this year's Chinese New Year's parade, CHSSC members were joined by Rotary Interact Club members from ten high schools: Our sizeable group proudly carried American flags at the beginning of the parade despite the unseasonably hot weather. A smaller than usual crowd (possibly due to the coronavirus scare) warmly greeted us as we marched through Chinatown.

As usual, other CHSSC members, their friends and families gathered outside our Heritage center on Bernard Street to enjoy the parade as it passed by. Once again all of the lion dancer troupes performed in front of our houses before receiving their red envelopes. A good time was had by all.

Golden Dragon Parade (clockwise from most left photo):

Four generations of the Bill and Margie Yee family came to march in and watch the parade at the CHSSC houses.

The CHSSC led the parade with the help of local high school students. Photo courtesy of O.C. Lee

The Immortals Lion Dance Troupe stop by the CHSSC houses for lucky money, much to the



(Above) The Firecracker 10k/5k Run/Walk:

Left photo: Marjorie Chun-Hoon with children Craig and Kristi, and family friend, Elizabeth Chikuami (R) at the Chinatown Firecracker 10k/5k Run/Walk.

Right photo: Bill Chun-Hoon's family and friends who participated in the Firecracker 5k walk, which was dedicated to Bill due to his long-time support of the organization.





Pictured above: (L-R) Jim Schneeweis, Donna Lee, Mei Ong, presenter Arthur Dong, and Gordon Hom chatting after the meeting.

Pictured on the right: (L-R) J.W. Wong, Eugene Moy, and Gordon Hom celebrated their January birthdays with a cake provided Susan Sing. Happy Birthday!



February Meeting Recap: Arthur Dong and *Hollywood Chinese*

Author and filmmaker, Arthur Dong, has had a lifelong interest in film and its history. San Francisco Chinatown, where Arthur grew up, had 5 movie theaters which showed movies produced in Hong Kong: Ku Fu movies: romantic comedies; and Chinese opera.

However, the focus of his talk was the change to the American film industry. After the successful, but controversial movie *The Tong Man* in 1919, the film studios realized that the public loved the Chinese movies so there was money to be made. When the movies were made by Hollywood, Hollywood defined what the Chinese were all about: vice, slave traders, opium users, prostitutes, and criminals.

Arthur's presentation included clips from vintage movies, promotional movie flyers and posters, and brief clips of commentaries from writers, actors and directors. Early films had white people in yellowface such as Boris Karloff in *The Mask of Fu Manchu*. In 1937 *The Good Earth*, which attempted to counter negative stereotypes of Chinese, starred Louise

Rainier in yellowface, but had 75 supporting actors. Arthur traced the careers of prominent actors, including Anna May Wong, Key Luke, Benson Fong, James Hong, Nancy Kwan, and Beulah Quo. He also included a photo of CHSSC member Marge Lee Chun-Hoon as a child and her mother, Jennie Lee, in their roles as supporting actors.

Arthur's presentation gave interesting highlights of information and images from his book *Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films*. If you missed his talk, watch our newsletter for opportunities to attend another presentation at different venues.

Thank you to:

**Anita Lee, Anna Gee, Felicia Tabing
and Michael Kusada, Phoenix Bakery,
Donna Lee, Sharon Yee, and Susan
Sing**

for their tasty donations at the February
Monthly Meeting!

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
THE 2020 GOLDEN SPIKE AWARDS DINNER

CHINESE AMERICAN FOOD LEGACIES: SERVING COMMUNITY

Recognizing iconic Asian American food purveyors, and a legendary eater and food blogger, who have enriched Southern California with flavor and community.

HONORING: Phoenix Bakery · New Moon Restaurant
· Santa Ana Food Market · David R. Chan

APRIL 25, 2020
NBC SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
404 S. ATLANTIC BLVD.
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754

SOCIAL HOUR: 5:00PM
DINNER: 6:00PM





The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
323-222-0856 • info@chssc.org • www.chssc.org

I wish to (be a):

- ☐ Silver Table Sponsor (\$1,250)
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Please reserve __ tickets @ \$100 per person (members), __ tickets @ \$125 per person (non-members). Please attach any seating requests.

☐ I want to donate raffle item(s); Please call me at
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☐ I will not be able to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$_____

Name _____ Title _____

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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.

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

YOSEMITE / SING PEAK BACKPACKING TRIP

E-mail info@chssc.org for more details.

CHSSC Membership Form

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

Membership levels:

Name _____

☐ Silver \$ 57.

Address _____

☐ 100x100 Club \$100.

City _____

☐ Diamond \$ 300.

State _____ Zip _____

☐ Senior (60+) or student \$ 32.

Phone _____

Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____

Email _____

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



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

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

Community Calendar

Saturday, March 28, 2020—10:30AM (Part 1), 12:00PM (Lunch), 1:00PM (Part 2)
CFHGSC Meeting: Chinese Surnames, and Chinese Dialects & Language Families
Olivewood Cemetery
3300 Central Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506

The Chinese Family History Group of Southern California's March meeting will be a double header featuring Patrick Chew speaking on Chinese Surnames at 10:00AM and Chinese Dialects and Language Families at 1:00PM. Join us for a light lunch at 12:00PM.

CHSSC Visitor's Center
415 Bamboo Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Saturday, April 4, 2020—10:00AM-12:00PM

CHSSC: Ching Ming Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery

We will again be observing Ching Ming at Evergreen Cemetery. After we clean the graves next to the historic Chinese Shrine, we will place flowers, light incense, and visit the gravesite of Donaldina Cameron. A light lunch will be provided. Please help us bring rakes, brooms, rags, and buckets to be used.

Historic 1888 Chinese Shrine
Evergreen Cemetery
204 N. Evergreen Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Saturday, April 4, 2020—2:30PM-4:30PM

Ching Ming (Riverside)

Organized by Save Our Chinatown Committee. Go to: saveourchinatown.org for more information.

Saturday, April 25, 2020

CHSSC 2020 Golden Spike Awards Dinner

The theme this year is **Chinese American Food Legacies: Serving Community** and will recognize iconic Asian American food purveyors, and a legendary eater and food blogger, who have enriched Southern California with flavor and community.

Honoring: Phoenix Bakery, New Moon Restaurant, the Santa Ana Food Market, and David R. Chan.

RSVP on chssc.org or email info@chssc.org for more information.

NBC Seafood
404 S. Atlantic Blvd.
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Monday, April 30-May 8, 2020

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival/No. 36

We are excited to announce that the 36th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival will be presented April 30-May 8, 2020 at select cinemas in the Los Angeles area. A key highlight of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Festival is the culmination of broad support from cinema artists and audiences alike. We are also a proud Academy Award®-qualifying film festival for the Short Film Awards. More information will be announced in the upcoming weeks, so stay tuned! For more information:

www.festival.vcmedia.org/2020