

JUNE 2021

CHINATOWN CONVERSATIONS: NETWORKING DURING THE PANDEMIC

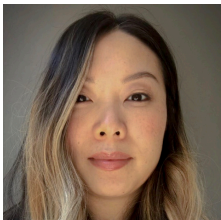
Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM. To register, go to CHSSC.org

Life in Chinatown during the pandemic has caused many challenges for its residents and businesses. Those of us who have been unable to visit for the past year have no true understanding of the hardships and needs of the community. Our discussion this month will include representatives of organizations vital to the community: Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Chinatown Service Center, and Castelar Elementary School. These community leaders will discuss adapting to the new struggles caused by the pandemic, solving problems through community networking, and planning for the future.



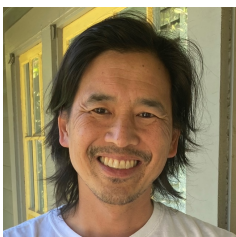
Currently Ernest is the Vice President of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). He is a long time member of the Lee On Dong Benevolent Association in Chinatown and he is a retired aerospace engineer from the Boeing Company. He is happily married with 2 boys (one married) and still looking forward to be a grandfather, hopefully soon.

Mei Lau immigrated from Hong Kong 40 years ago and started her banking career. Currently manager with a full service bank in LA Chinatown. Current president of CCBA since 2020. Also serves as advisor of Chinese Women's New Life Movement club, Bow On Family Association. Serves as a volunteer with CSC, instructor for Home Boy Industries and a couple of other nonprofit organizations.



Thy Mai serves as the President of F.A.C.E.S (Friends and Alumni of Castelar Elementary School) and Chairperson of the School Site Committee. She is the co-founder of technology company and a Suzuki music mom to a vibrant first grader.

Peter Ng immigrated from China and became a successful businessman. After starting in banking, he pursued real estate and business ventures, including being co-owner of Ace Fence Company. Peter joined the Board of Directors of the Chinatown Service Center in 2007, and in 2014 became Chief Executive Officer. He is very active in the Chinese community, has served on numerous boards, and is a past president of the CCBA.



Martin Wong is a co-founder of Giant Robot magazine (1994-2010), co-founder of Save Music in Chinatown benefit concerts (since 2013), and longtime member of FACES (Friends and Alumni of Castelar). His grandfather was very involved in the Wong Association in Chinatown, his dad learned how to cuss in Cantonese washing dishes in Chinatown, his wedding banquet was at Empress Pavilion, and his daughter's band, the Linda Lindas, has recently received nationwide recognition and a recording contract.



President's Letter

May First CHSSC took a step forward when our first curated online exhibit was launched. This exhibit entitled "A Vision of Justice: Tyrus Wong and the Cultural Continuum of New Chinatown" focuses on a never exhibited Tyrus Wong painting, *Confucius as Justice*. Visiting the exhibit will allow you to view this painting which hangs in the well-restored office of immigration lawyer, You Chung Hong (1898-1977). This interactive virtual tour allows the visitor to see Y.C. Hong's office and to get a better understanding of Tyrus and Y.C. and the cultural and historic moment in which the painting was made.

In this issue we pay tribute to three CHSSC supporters who have recently passed: Ruby Ling Louie, Camille Wing, and Nathan Jung. Each was a trailblazer in his/her own right, and we want to celebrate their lives.

Many of the donations this month were given in memory of a loved one: Ruby Ling Louie, Angi Ma Wong and Isobel Lew. We also remember these CHSSC members.

Susan Dickson

Special Gum Saan Journals Are Ready

Originally from Pajaro Chinatown in Watsonville, Charles L. Leong was a pioneering English-language journalist with the *Chinese News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Hokubei Mainichi*, *Asian Week*, and the United Press. This is a special issue compiled by Charles' son, Russell C. Leong, longtime editor of UCLA's *Amerasia Journal*.

All paid members will receive this issue of the GSJ in early June.

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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.



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Stories and Voices from LA Chinatown

The new exhibit featured on the old stomping grounds of Grandview Gardens Restaurant in Central Plaza (942 N Hill St) was brought to life by the collaboration between the Huntington Library's Archival collection, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Public Library Foundation. The exhibit, called *Stories and Voices from LA Chinatown*, is the first of a series projects to be developed about Los Angeles communities.



Originally, these organizations reached out to Caitlin Bryant to interview her about her family's background since her great grandpa was Peter Soohoo, Sr. Caitlin explained her involvement in Chinatown and her vision of installing a banner that would highlight the history of Chinatown on the fencing surrounding the vacant land of Grandview Gardens. This exhibit, which was installed in time for Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, highlights the struggles of Chinese Americans, the demolition of the Old Chinatown, and the formation of New Chinatown.

The online exhibit, which accompanies the Chinatown installation, is a mix of historic photos and of interviews with people who have a strong connection to Chinatown. Our own board members, Caitlin Bryant and Eugene Moy, and Caitlin's great aunt, Pat Lem, were interview subjects who reflected on many aspects of life in Chinatown: opportunity, vision, exclusion, resilience, community, and tradition.

To view the online exhibit, you can visit our website: chssc.org or <https://exhibits.lapl.org/chinatown/>

In Remembrance of Nathan Jung



Photo by Damon Wing

BY HOWARD WANG

For “oldie” fans of *Star Trek*, *M*A*S*H**, *Starsky & Hutch*, *Kung Fu*, *CHiPs*, to name just a few TV shows and films, you might have seen Nathan Jung, known for his tall stature. In his 1969 debut, Nathan played the role as Genghis Khan in the original *Star Trek* series. Jung also worked with Bruce Lee and his son Brandon Lee. In his final role in 2016, Jung was the narrator in a documentary short, “Nathan Jung v. Bruce Lee.”

Although never a CHSSC member, Nathan often attended CHSSC meetings at Castelar. Nathan Jung passed away on April 24 at age 74. Jung is survived by his nephew, Keith Jung.



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In Remembrance of Camille Wing

BY WILL GOW

Longtime CHSSC member Camille Chan Wing passed away on March 21, 2021. She was 93 years of age. Camille was born in Bakersfield on December 7, 1927 and raised on her family ranch in Hanford, California. At the age of six, she moved to Los Angeles with her father, Thomas Chan, and her mother, JoMac Potter Chan. The Chan family became part of small community of Chinese Americans who worked in China City. Thomas Chan worked for Tom Gubbins in Asiatic Costumes. As was the case of so many Chinese Americans of her generation in Los Angeles, Camille appeared as a Hollywood extra in movies like *The Good Earth*.

Camille briefly attended University of Southern California before returning to Hanford where she became a pillar of the community. She was instrumental in working to preserve the Chinese Temple in Hanford and she helped to organize Hanford's annual Moon Festival. In 2016, she was honored by the National Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Preservation Forum for her work preserving the history of Chinese Americans in Hanford.



Photo by Anita Rodriguez

Those interested in paying tribute to Camille her family asks that donations be made to the to the China Alley Preservation Society, P.O. Box 728, Hanford 93232.



Fire at Hanford's Historic Taoist Temple

BY WILL GOW

A fire damaged the historic Taoist Temple in Hanford on May 12, 2021. The Taoist Temple has been part of historic China Alley in the Central Valley town of Hanford since 1893. For decades it was a center of the Chinese American life in that community. The fire damaged numerous artifacts. The temple is maintained through the work of the China Alley Preservation Society, which is seeking donations to support restoration after the fire.



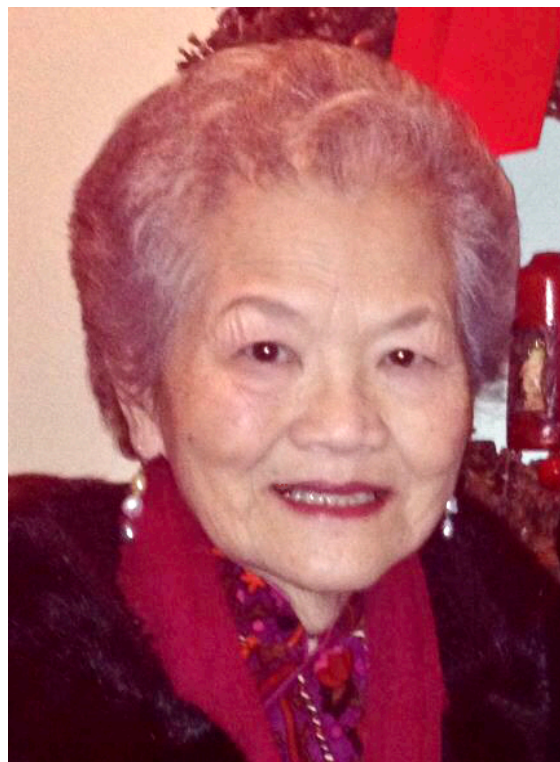
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Ruby Ling Louie, Ph.D.

(APRIL 11, 1931-MAY 4, 2021)

Born in Chicago, Ruby was the youngest of 4 children of a Chinese merchant and a mother from central Chekiang Province, China. In the 1930's her entrepreneurial father participated in multiple World's Fairs and finally settled the family in Los Angeles, where they opened several curio shops in "China City" just east of the current Chinatown area. They lived among other "honest immigrant" families of Italian, Russian, Mexican, Japanese and Chinese ancestry; Ruby was always proud to be part of these families working hard to better their lives. In 1942, her father opened a Chinese restaurant in Long Beach where the four children worked after school.

Ruby graduated from Belmont High School in 1948, then went on to Long Beach City College and UCLA where a summer course gave Ruby the direction for her life's work: she became a librarian for children. She went on to Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh for her Master's degree, to public and school libraries in Connecticut, NY, LA County, and Long Beach. In 1976 she earned her PhD in Library Science from University of Southern California. Along the way, Ruby married her Belmont and UCLA classmate Hoover Louie. They settled in Chinatown where Hoover had grown up, and raised their two children there.



Ruby's doctoral dissertation demonstrated the need for library services in LA Chinatown. As Founding President of the Friends of the Chinatown Library, Ruby led the efforts of many dedicated people to establish the first branch of the LA Public Library to offer full bilingual services to Chinese Americans. Virtually all of the 4,000 Chinese books were checked out in the first 5 hours, and in 2001 the group broke ground for the permanent site on Hill Street. Ruby was active with the Friends for approximately 40 years, and there is an endowment in her honor "The Ruby Ling Louie Endowment for Americans of Chinese Descent." Both she and Hoover were also long-time members of CHSSC, and established a CHSSC endowment to develop a collection of Chinese-American literature.

Ruby was passionate about literacy and giving back to her Chinatown community. She served on boards such as the United Way Literacy Task Force, the LA Council for Peace and Equality, and the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Ruby received awards such as the Volunteer Activist of Southern California, the LA Mayor's "Apple" Award, and the Reader's Digest "American Heroes in Education" award.

Ruby is survived by her husband of 60 years, Hoover, her two children and their spouses, and three grandchildren. Her memorial service was held at St. Bridget's Chinese Catholic Church where she and Hoover were active parishioners.



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Southern California Congressional Gold Medal for WWII Veterans

On November 10, 1994 CHSSC held a dinner in LA Chinatown to honor the many Chinese American veterans from Southern California who served in the U.S. Armed Services during World War II. Four years later CHSSC published *Duty and Honor: A Tribute to Chinese American WWII Veterans of Southern California*. Members of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance pushed for the passage of the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, which was enacted on December 12, 2018. Subsequently, C.A.C.A. initiated the Chinese American WWII Veterans' Recognition Project. The project has been committed to providing a replica of the original medal to all veterans who signed up online before January 2021. Gene Moy is leading the committee who will be having a virtual recognition ceremony of the living WWII veterans on May 31st at 10 AM. At the end of the program will be a roll call of all the WWII vets from Southern California. Please join us to honor the vets at: <https://tinyurl.com/CACANational>

Major Donations

James Louie IMO Ruby Ling Louie \$10,000

Maxwell Cheung IMO Angi Ma Wong \$500

Julia Costello \$1000

Chong Lew IMO Isobel Chong

Amy and Pax Wei IMO Angi Ma Wong \$500

Superior Poultry: Willard Wong

Lynda Schmidt

Bark Hay Wong IMO Angi Ma Wong

Lila Quan IMO Nathan Jung

Donations

Josephine Chu IMO Angi Ma Wong

Ming and Maria Lai IMO Angi Ma Wong

Allen Linsak Lee IMO Angi Ma Wong

Chi Loh and Flora Chow IMO Angi Ma Wong

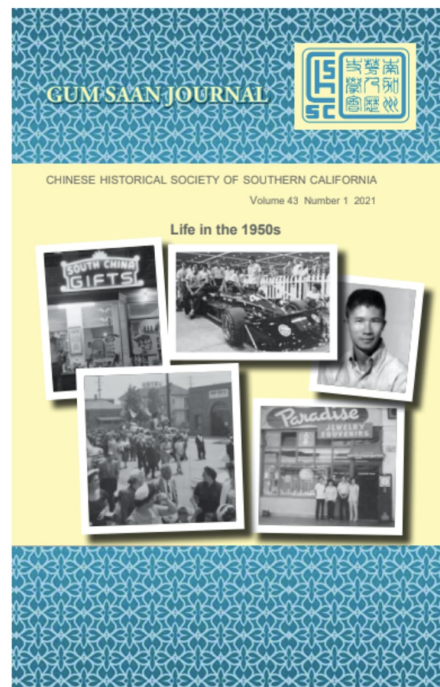
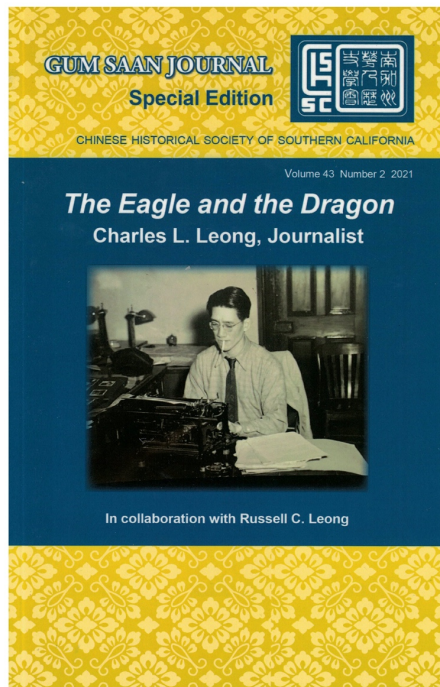
Bernard and Beverly Bienstock IMO Angi Ma
Wong

Po Lin Han IMO Angi Ma Wong

Patrick Tam

Justine Wong

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Membership levels:

☐ Silver \$ 57.

☐ 100x100 Club \$100.

☐ Diamond \$ 300.

☐ Senior (60+) or student \$ 32.

Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____

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Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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