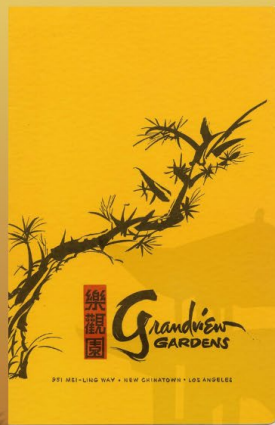


Our Latest Online Exhibit



Grandview Gardens Online Exhibit

By Linda Bentz

In case you missed it, our June monthly meeting focused on our new online exhibit on the history of Grandview Gardens Restaurant. Grandview Gardens first opened in Los Angeles' Old Chinatown in 1925. It later moved to New Chinatown in 1961.

Tyrus Wong was commissioned to paint two large murals for the restaurant: a landscape for the dining room and Chinese theatrical figures for the restaurant's bar.

The exhibit is available online on the CHSSC website, chssc.org. Learn the fascinating history of the restaurant and scroll down for more information on Tyrus and the murals.

This exhibit is presented by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California with a generous donation from the Louie Family Foundation. Enjoy!



President's Message

SUMMER GREETINGS!

I'd like to welcome all to our Summer 2022 issue of News 'N Notes. While we take a break from presenting a monthly program in July and August, we will be starting right back in September with an update of our Five Chinatowns research, oral history, and publication project. Led by our stellar team of Asian American scholars and teaching professionals, we will be hearing the results of work by our nine (9) summer interns. That means there will be a beehive of activity, some in-person, some online, where we'll be seeing ongoing interaction by the summer team with our in-house archival staff and with our community pioneers (we're still looking for more interviewees!).

I have the daunting task of following our Leader for the past four years. When Susan Dickson was elected president in June 2018, little did she know she would be serving two consecutive two-year terms. She thought she was going to finish up in 2020, highlighted by our annual Golden Spike Dinner in April. Instead, Susan stepped up and led us through the early days of the pandemic and the transition to online program meetings. Incredibly, we have extended our outreach through several online exhibitions. Susan has worked closely with our board member and archives manager Linda Bentz to supervise the day-to-day operations of the CHSSC, including the hiring of a small team of archivists who have been organizing our important collections. We've been able to succeed, and thrive, with support from a number of generous grants and donations, for which we are eternally grateful.

As we approach our 50th anniversary, coming up in November 2025, I can proudly tell you that our board of directors is fully committed to continuing to implement our mission, of collecting and sharing our important Chinese American history.

"A true historical painter, it seems to me, is one who paints the life he sees around him, and so makes a record of his own epoch."

CHILDE HASSAM, 1892

Eugene Moy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Linda Bentz
Cindy Fong
Gordon Hom
Laureen Hom
Bak Jong
Angela Lancaster
Grace Leo
Felicia Tabing

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.



SUMMER 2022

CHSSC SUMMER PICNIC



After more than 2 years, we are finally getting together.
Join us for fellowship and good food.



Saturday, August 27, 2022
11:00 AM -2:00 PM



Bring a dish for 8 or pay \$5.00 at the door.

CHSSC Heritage and Visitors Center
411-415 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Nearby parking available at Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza.
Street parking is also available.

Community Participation



CHSSC interns set up a table of our artifacts for the inaugural Asian American Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander Heritage Day Event, initiated by Sophia Wong, daughter of Grandview Gardens co-owner Norman Wong, at King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas, CA. We were joined by the Ventura County Chinese American Association.

L to R: Ricky Leo, Julie Myers, Anne Olivares, Grace Leo, David Castro, Coryn Hardison & her fiancé



A fabulous day was had by all as kites of all sizes and description filled the skies above downtown LA. A diverse crowd of Angelenos enjoyed a beautiful display put on by professionals and fellow residents.

L to R: Gordon Hom, Grace Leo, Cindy Fong

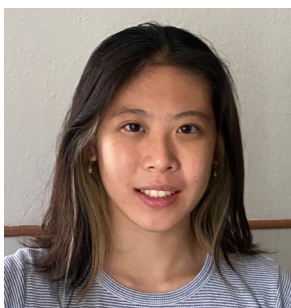


SUMMER 2022

The Five Chinatowns Project Summer Interns

By William Gow

The CHSSC is excited to welcome an exceptional group of interns to work on our Five Chinatowns community history project this summer. Funded by the generous donations of CHSSC members, the summer internship is a ten-week paid opportunity that teaches high school and college youth the basics of oral history methodology and Los Angeles Chinese American history. This summer our intern cohort is preparing oral history transcripts from our 2007-2008 Chinatown Remembered project for inclusion in our digital archive. They are also conducting oral history interviews with community members about the Chinese American community in Los Angeles in the period before 1965 for our Five Chinatowns book project. In a first for the society, training and meetings for this internship are being held virtually on Zoom, which has allowed us to recruit interns from across North America. Join us for our September meeting to see our interns present on their work this summer.



Miriam Chen
Texas A&M



Keilani Dalena Coquia
U.C. Irvine graduate



Annalise Harlow
Sacramento State Univ graduate



Stephanie Hu
Harvard University



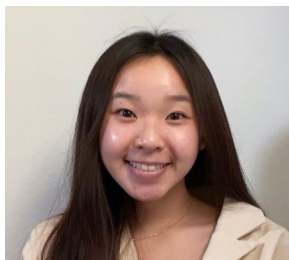
Sonia Xuan Liu
UCLA



Yi-Shen Loo
U.C. Berkeley graduate



Lisa Ryou
University of Michigan



Vi Truong
UCLA graduate



Fion Zhen
McGill University



SUMMER 2022

Introducing Our Archivist Interns



Andy Tan is a recent recipient of an MLIS from UCLA's School of Information Studies where he specialized in media archiving. He is especially interested in music preservation and served as co-chair of UCLA's chapter of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections. He also holds a BA from UC San Diego where he double majored in communication studies and film and video production. He grew up in the Bay Area raised by immigrants from Zhongshan, China and spent much of his childhood in Oakland Chinatown. Outside of CHSSC, you may be able to find him sipping espresso at one of LA's best coffee shops, shopping for seasonal produce at the farmer's market, or listening to jazz in the park.



Daisy Cabot is a recent college graduate with a degree in History. While she is a native of Los Angeles County, she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Northern California from Sonoma State University, where she studied various social, cultural, religious, and political histories. In addition to participating in the archival internship at the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California this summer, Daisy works in guest relations at an L.A. museum. She is hoping to attend graduate school next year to obtain Master's Degrees in both History and Library and Information Science in order to become a research librarian or an archivist.



Taylor Burnett received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Asian American Studies and Sociology and a Minor in Film, Television, and Digital Media Studies from the University of California Los Angeles. She previously interned at the Chinese American Museum and with Tsuru for Solidarity. During her time with these organizations she worked on projects that focused on engaging with the Asian American community. Taylor is interested in Asian American history, with a special interest in Asian American representation in film and media. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies, hiking, and exploring new places with friends.



David Castro is an aspiring metadata archivist/librarian who wishes to bridge the gap between communities of color and their representation in traditional archives by using web-based technology to disseminate and preserve knowledge. He is two years into his MLIS program at San Jose State University focusing his career pathway on 'Information Organization, Description, Analysis, and Retrieval,' along with a secondary focus in 'Data Assets Management.' David earned his B.A in History from UCLA where he found a strong passion in the preservation of archival material and cultural artifacts, as well as developed his skill set in collections management, community outreach, and historical research.



SUMMER 2022

Visit by Graduate Students

Devon Fitzgerald (UCLA), Maura Dykstra (CalTech), Michael Szonyi (Harvard), ran an advanced training seminar for graduate students in Chinese history at UCLA May 30-June 4. The purpose of the school was to get students thinking through different sorts of methodologies and their own research.

In order for these advanced graduate students to 'encounter' the working conditions and materials in a local collection, Devin brought the students to CHSSC where the students looked through some of the Chinese language materials in the CHSSC collection. Their visit to Chinatown included lunch at a local restaurant and a walk through Chinatown.



Instructors:

Maura Dykstra, Caltech University

Devin Fitzgerald, UCLA

Michael Szonyi, Harvard University

Students:

Yiming Ha, UCLA

Chang Xu, Washington University, St. Louis

Minoru Takano, University of British Columbia

Joey Lowe, Brandeis University

Julia (Manchu) Wu, Johns Hopkins University

Soo Hyun Lee, UCSB

Farewell to UCLA Intern Anne Olivares



L to R: David Castro, Amanda Galvez, Anne Olivares, Linda Bentz



In Remembrance of Walter SooHoo

April 6, 1932 – June 20, 2022

Walter SooHoo, an anchor of New Chinatown's Central Plaza, has passed at the age of 90. Born in Old Chinatown, Walter was the second oldest of seven children and grew up in the family gift shop, Chew Yuen Company. After its moving to New Chinatown in 1938, Walter took it over in 1975 and established a new store, Phoenix Imports, next door. The front door was next to General Lee's restaurant, and right across from the Wishing Well. Ever the entrepreneur, in 1985 he took over the iconic Golden Pagoda Restaurant, operating it as Hop Louie; its walls were covered with autographed photos of Hollywood and music industry stars. Walter himself had a long career in film, beginning in 1937, and was a member of the Screen Actors Guild.

For the 75h Anniversary of New Chinatown in May 2013, the CHSSC proudly presented a Golden Spike Award to Walter and his family for their legacy business, Phoenix Imports

Walter and Eileen, his wife of 68 years, were always a welcoming presence in the Central Plaza, often staying open late into the evenings. Well after other shops were closed, one could stroll in and have a chat with him about the Dodgers, or Lakers, or about anything in the newspaper that was always in front of him, or about his family, his pride and joy. He is survived by Eileen, his siblings Howard, Betty, Hayward, and Roland SooHoo, and many grandchildren.

June & July Donations

In Memory of Richard Quan

Amy Chan

Kenneth and Nancy Choi

Susan Dickson

Cindy Fong

Elaine Harada

Mei Ong

In Memory of Walter SooHoo

Linda SooHoo

Eugene Moy

In Memory of Betty Woo

Russell La Puma

Helen Y. and Darryl Quon

Judy Sai

George and Edith Sheu

Karen Lynn Woo

Major Donors

James B. Louie

Winston and Joanne Young



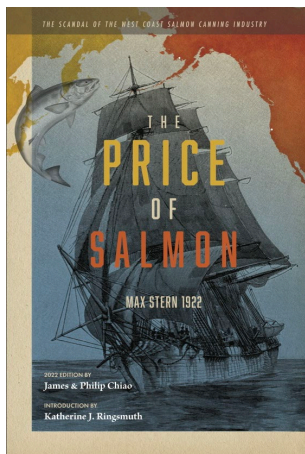
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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.*

Book Spotlight

The Price of Salmon: The Scandal of the West Coast Salmon Canning Industry



By Max Stern, 1922; Edited by James and Philip Chiao, 2022

In 1922, San Francisco Daily News investigative journalist, Max Stern, posed as a down-on-his-luck cannery worker to uncover corrupt hiring practices and deplorable labor conditions employed by Chinese contractors and Alaska salmon canners. Stern's collective articles spotlighted the discrimination, exploitation, profiteering, and mistreatment of cannery crews and exposed the corrupt, abusive practices of the labor contract system.

Available on Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/7yyda492>