

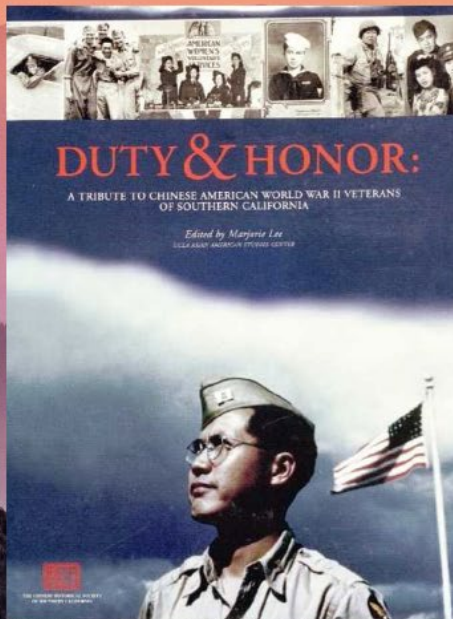
APRIL 2023

Preserving Our Duty & Honor Collection Wednesday, April 5, 2023 7pm



David Castro
CHSSC Archivist

This collection is one of CHSSC's most prominent collections, which preserves the memory of Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California, as well as the memory of the project team who compiled this information. Join David Castro, CHSSC Archivist, to discuss the endeavors of preserving such a collection and learn about the unique accounts from those who lived through the war.



Free to attend. RSVP via Eventbrite on CHSSC website:
<https://chssc.org>



APRIL 2023

President's message

LOOKING FORWARD, WITH HOPE

By the time you read this, we will have entered Spring 2023, emerging from a period of tumultuous winter storms, of profound grief by those who lost loved ones in the Monterey Park tragedy, of many growing young minds having lost much classroom time due to Covid impacts on educational schedules. Some of us lost friends and family members in 2022, or weathered health and economic challenges in the past year. People ask, How is Chinatown?, or How are you?

But as you can see elsewhere on these pages, and in our homes and neighborhoods, as we go about our lives, people are moving ahead. While there is still some uncertainty in some sectors of the work economy, most of Chinatown's small businesses have survived the pandemic. New leadership has emerged to work with old, new collaborations have developed to improve our communities. Many CHSSC friends have stepped up to support our programs. And we had our Chinese New Year parade again!

Recently, I learned from Lynn Nguyen, Young Adult Librarian at the Chinatown Branch Library, that she will be working with her youth council at the end of March to assemble food baskets for needy households living in the SRO (single-room occupancy) hotels in Chinatown, and helping other community volunteers to deliver them. I intend to participate, and absorb their energy and sense of purpose. This, along with my above observations, gives me hope for our future, hope that is articulated better by **Emily Dickinson** in the first stanza of her poem, "'Hope' is the thing with feathers".

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all ...*



Eugene Moy

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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.



APRIL 2023

April Program

The featured speaker for our April program is our own archivist, David Castro, who has been involved with our Duty & Honor Collection, the only archive on the west coast that honors Chinese American WWII Veterans from Southern California. He will present an overview of the archive project, the team that collected all of the veteran information, and the results of his work, including insights into the pre-war, war, and post-war experiences of some of these veterans, who are highlighted in the book *Duty & Honor: A Tribute to Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California*, from their interviews, photos and secondary sources. He will conclude his presentation with new photographic findings highlighting the Chinese chapter of the American Women's Voluntary Services which escorted pilot trainees all around Los Angeles.

Our board member, Albert Lowe, who helped to process the paper documents in the collection will be on hand to answer questions during the presentation.

Speaker Bios



David Castro is an aspiring Archivist who wishes to bridge the gap between marginalized communities and their representation in traditional archives by using web-based technology to disseminate and preserve knowledge. He is three years into his MLIS program at San Jose State University focusing his career pathway on 'Archival Studies and Records Management,' along with a secondary focus in 'Data Assets Management.' David also earned his B.A in History from UCLA where he found a strong passion in the preservation of archival material and cultural artifacts. While working at CHSSC, he has developed his skill set in collections management, community outreach, and historical research.



Albert Lowe previously worked with CHSSC as the Duty and Honor project archivist. Albert also participated in the family genealogy program, In Search of Roots, and was a researcher for Loni Ding's "Ancestors of the Americas." He is the co-founder of the Asian American magazine, SLANT, and has an advanced degree in Ethnic Studies from UCSD and a MLIS degree from UCLA. Albert's recent work is in the realm of low wage worker empowerment and affordable housing. He currently works as a strategic campaigner at the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 770.

CHSSC Intern Spotlight



Ryan Sullivan is originally from the greater Los Angeles area but is now pursuing undergraduate studies at New York University. She is currently a junior with a major in History and a minor in Chinese. Interest in Chinese and Chinese American History for Ryan stems from her background as a third generation Chinese American. Outside of her studies, Ryan is an avid dancer and music enthusiast.



APRIL 2023

2023 Firecracker Run

The 2023 Firecracker Run was held in Chinatown the weekend of February 17 and 18. Board member Bak Jong helped CHSSC obtain a table in Central Plaza which we used to display information about our organization. Linda, Gene, and Gordon greeted the many event participants who stopped to buy books and chat.





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The Five Chinatowns Project

The Five Chinatowns Project is still under way, and we would love for the CHSSC community to continue sharing stories/family archives about the pre-1965 LA Chinatowns.



This photo is held at the Bancroft Library Archival Collections. It is labeled “Rear of Chinatown” and dated 1924.

Does this place or do these children look familiar? Do you recognize the people, the buildings, the firepit, the sink, the balcony, the hanging laundry, the wagon/buggy, or the sign at the far right that is cut off, but shows “-ssion”? Does the photo spark any memories for you (in this place or in other places of Old Chinatown)? Do you know what might have been on the other side of these doors?

We would love to learn all we can about the environment, the homes, and the children (and even other people/goings-on that are not visible in the photo). Please share with us!

Email Isabela Seong Leong Quintana, Project Co-Director, at isaq@uci.edu.

Citation: Rear of Chinatown. Photo, 1924. Photographic Documentation of Pneumonic Plague Outbreak Sites and Rats in Los Angeles. BANC PIC 1988.052--PIC, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0c60078m/?order=1> (Accessed June 2, 2008.)



APRIL 2023

Major Donation From Clara Tom via Munson Kwok





APRIL 2023

In Remembrance of Stanton Mu

June 3, 1927 – December 24, 2022



Stanton Mu, a Charter Member of CHSSC, was born in Los Angeles in 1927. The construction of Union Station forced his family to move from Old Chinatown to East Kensington Road in Echo Park. His father's herb store was relocated to Gin Ling Way in New Chinatown. There it became a gift shop named Mu Bros.

Stanton volunteered to join the Navy during WWII while still attending Belmont High School. He was a 1st Class Fireman, and served on the USS LST-680 and the USS Maryland. After the war ended, he returned to Belmont High School to earn his diploma. Stanton went on to graduate from UCLA with a Business Degree and continued his education at UC Berkeley to earn his Master's Degree in Business. He then obtained his teaching credential in Math from USC.

Stanton started his teaching career at Garfield Junior High School and then went back to teach at his old high school, Belmont High. He later became the Head of the Mathematics Department. Stanton retired after teaching for 30 years.

He and his wife enjoyed dancing and traveling to Europe and Asia. They also loved taking cruises with their friends. Stanton was also active in his church, and moved to Orange County in 2014 to be closer to his three sons. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Chinese American WWII veterans in 2021.

Stanton was 95 ½ years old when he passed away on December 24, 2022.

2023 Ching Ming

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Evergreen Cemetery

204 N Evergreen Ave, Los Angeles, CA

(adjacent to the historic 1888 Chinese shrine)

Join CHSSC as we gather to honor our ancestors. Help us as we clean the many gravesites of the unknown Chinese who are buried there and place flowers in remembrance. A light meal will be shared by all. The celebration will be ended by a short walk to visit the gravesite of Donaldina Cameron and her family at Evergreen.



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

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE: Celebration of Life for Gilbert Hom, Saturday, March 25, 2023, see our website for details: <https://chssc.org/event/celebration-of-life-for-gilbert-hom/>

Donations for March

In Memory of Dorothy Chan

Patricia T. Mar

In Memory of Gilbert Hom

Eileen Leung

In Memory of May Lee Wong

Liana Hachiya

Katherine Lam

J.C. Morey

Alex & Sally Wong

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Steven & Nancy Wong

In Memory of Stanton Mu

Susan Dickson

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Paul Lee

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