



SUMMER 2023



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

南加州華人歷史學會

SUMMER PICNIC

SAT., AUGUST 12, 2023, 11 AM - 2 PM

CHSSC Heritage and Visitors Center

411 Bernard Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Main course dishes provided.

\$15 (cash please) per person or bring an appetizer or dessert
to serve at least 8-10 people.

If you bring a dish, please notify us in your RSVP and we will
contact you to coordinate.

**PLEASE RSVP - email: info@chssc.org or
leave a message: (323) 222-0856**

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





President's message

I would like to introduce myself as the incoming president of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. After serving as the Vice President for the past two years, I feel that I am ready to take on this important leadership role. I have learned a great deal about this wonderful organization, the dedicated people behind it, and the purposes of the Society that you can read in the mission statement included in every issue of our newsletter.

Here is some background on how I became involved with the Society. My wife Grace and I have been members for many years, mainly from knowing Linda Bentz, who serves on the board and is also involved with the Ventura County Chinese Historical Society. When the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to Chinese American WWII veterans, we registered my father and Grace helped families in Ventura County to register their veterans. We were invited to serve on the committee in Los Angeles to deliver the medal to the living veterans in Southern California, including the only living veteran in Ventura County. It was such a rewarding experience to meet with these veterans and listen to their stories. Because of this, we were invited to join the board and we accepted.

There are many important issues facing the Society that we need to address in the upcoming year. We have a vast archive of artifacts that we have started to digitize so that they can be readily accessed. A great deal of progress has been made, but much more work needs to be done. A number of years ago, we committed to renovating our Heritage Center in Los Angeles Chinatown. We are close to getting the necessary building permits, but we will need to raise additional funds to make this a reality. We have received many requests from researchers looking for materials in our archives, but we have a limited number of interns and volunteers to fulfill them.

As with other non-profit organizations, we rely on grants and donations to conduct our business. We have much to offer: monthly programs featuring interesting topics and knowledgeable speakers; an updated website where you can access our digital archives, on-line exhibits, collections, publications and other resources; events like our summer picnic and holiday get together, and so much more. If you find value in our work, please consider making a donation and participating in our upcoming fundraising efforts.

Ricky Leo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Ricky Leo, President
Gordon Hom, Vice President
Caitlin Bryant, Vice President,
Programs
Susan Dickson, Secretary
Franklin Mah, Treasurer
Laureen Hom, Membership
Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Linda Bentz
Calvin Cheng
Robert Chong
Cindy Fong
Annalise Harlow
Bak Jong
Karen Jong
Angela Lancaster
Grace Leo
Albert Lowe
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 2023

Reflections

By Eliana Urizar



Through the UCLA Community Archives Lab / Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Internship Program I was given the opportunity to intern at CHSSC during my 2022/2023 school year. This experience has given me the chance to explore the different types of archival work like digitizing, cataloging, archive maintenance, processing collections, and many other aspects. The different projects I have taken on here have enabled me to grow my skills and interests in archives greatly, specifically within the areas of cataloging and preservation. Starting off my internship last year, I worked with inventorying “grey literature” from the Paul Chace Collection, allowing me to explore the types of resources CHSSC has available for researchers. Continuing my library work, I assisted in organizing and updating CHSSC’s Libib as well as organizing the physical library.

The project that I have been working on throughout my internship is the Southern California Oral History Project, which includes nearly 1,700 photos. This work has included digitizing photos and cataloging them by conducting research through looking through the oral histories left by the collection donors. The work in cataloging the photos piqued my interests, I did not have experience in cataloging and the process of learning it and applying that to the photos was very interesting to me. Because of this project I sought out cataloging courses within my program as I became more interested in this area of study through my experience at CHSSC. I also had a chance to work on creating a finding aid for a collection. I was able to work more extensively on ArchivesSpace than I had before in my classes and complete the full process of getting the finding aid I created on the Online Archive of California.



Contract archivist Andy Tan with Carolin Jesussek, a PhD student from Mainz University in Germany



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Five Chinatowns Project: Share Your Stories with the CHSSC

The Five Chinatowns community history project is entering our final summer of research. We are hosting a group of high school and college student volunteers who are researching census manuscripts for the East Adams neighborhood. Our research manager Yi-Shen Loo is developing the project website. Our leadership team is providing final comments on essays about New Chinatown during the Cold War, CFO Service Station, and the origins of the City Market.

Even with all we have done, we are still seeking untold stories of these communities. This is your final chance to contribute your memories, family photos, or memorabilia to the project. We are collecting all stories related to the Five Chinatowns of Los Angeles before 1965. We are especially interested in stories related to East Adams, the Chinese Presbyterian Church, the Drum & Bugle Corps, and any and all aspects of China City. This is your chance to have your family's history included in our Five Chinatowns book and saved in our CHSSC archive. We are conducting oral histories, scanning family photos, and collecting written reflections until September of 2023. After that, we will be concluding the research phase of our project and will be turning our attention to finalizing writing and editing our book. To contribute, reach out to: William Gow (will.gow@chssc.org), Isabela Quintana (isaq@uci.edu), or Kelly Fong (kelfong@ucla.edu).



The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) has mounted a new documentation project about the five Chinatowns in Los Angeles before 1965. We are creating a rich archive of oral histories and family photos at the CHSSC, which we will share online and in a new book. This project is made possible with generous funding from Winston and Joanne Young, the UCLA AASC Stanley Kwok Lau and Dora Wong Lau Endowment in Chinese American Studies, and people like you.

We hope we can count on you to help us fund, collect, and document these stories! Contribute to the project today.

For more information
contact:

Dr. Kelly Fong
kelfong@ucla.edu

Gene Moy
info@chssc.org



SUMMER 2023

Sign Up for 2023 Yosemite Pilgrimage - October 6-7

By Eugene Moy

We are continuing our planning for our annual excursion to Yosemite, which this year has been pushed to the fall to avoid the summer heat. There will be two full days of activities within Yosemite on Fri-Sat Oct. 6-7, including driving to and hikes along historic trails/roads, touring-walking in Yosemite Valley and enjoying scenic vistas and waterfalls, visiting the Chinese Laundry exhibit, and enjoying fellowship at a potluck dinner on Saturday evening. We will also hear a special presentation by guest speaker Phil Sexton, a State Parks cultural resources consultant who has been working on historic protection for the Summit (railroad) Tunnels, built in the Sierras by Chinese workers in the 1860's.

Transportation is via your own vehicles, but we can help plan carpools. Also, we're planning some driving stops to and from Yosemite, which may include: the Sugar Pine Railroad and Fresno Flats (Chinese work camps), Chinatowns in Fresno, Hanford, Bakersfield, and the new Lang Station-San Fernando Tunnel historic site markers.

A limited number of bedrooms are available in large cabins already reserved for three nights (arrive evening of Thu. Oct. 5) at the Redwoods in Yosemite complex, or you may reserve your own cabin. <https://redwoodsinyosemite.com/>. All participants must register; a small administrative fee will be added to the actual lodging costs. Please contact Eugene Moy at ewmoy49@gmail.com for further information.

UCLA Students Do Classwork in CHSSC Archives

By Andy Tan

Five graduate students from the Library and Information Science program at UCLA volunteered at CHSSC in May and June as part of the Community-Based Archiving class. Abigail Mortimer, Jeanelle Wan, Michaela Telfer, Prach Prasertwit, and former CHSSC intern Justin Martin each contributed twenty hours of their time processing our archival collections. They helped reorganize files, clear out duplicates, and wrote finding aids for our new archives database, which will be accessible online soon.



Michaela will return in September as an intern as part of the UCLA Community Archives / Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Internship Program.



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Spring Clean Up



L to R: Gordon Hom, Harry Du Young,
Theresa Lee, Anita Lee, Sam Chow
Not pictured: Ricky & Grace Leo

Behind the Scenes at CHSSC

Last Day for our Collections Manager Amanda Galvez



Seated L to R: Joann Im, David Casto, Eliana Urizar, Linda Bentz
Standing L to R: Andy Tan, Amanda Galvez



May 23 KCET camera crew members visited
CHSSC to interview Eugene Moy & Susan Dickson
as part of their Lost LA series to be aired in 2024



Janna Tom and Aubrey Egerter, daughter and
granddaughter of CHSSC Charter Member Clara
King Tom (now 100 years young) recently visited
the Chinese American Museum and CHSSC with
a guided stroll through Chinatown.



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Walking Tours



Hailey Soh, our February speaker, with friends & family (July 16)



St. Marks School from Massachusetts



Chinatown Teen Council from Chinatown Library (May 20)



The Los Angeles Conservancy recently completed a three-week program for youth, which included a visit to the Chinese American Museum and through Chinatown led by tour manager Eugene Moy. (July 13)



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

Donations for June / July

In Memory of Mary Chung

Eric & Vicky Young

In Memory of Anita June Chong Jeung

Pam Dernham

Jill Lawrence

James W. Forrer

The Ley Family (Ana)

Karen Wong

Lisa Wong & Family

Donations

Linda Bentz

Chloe Chan

L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee

Lisa Dott

Susan Go

San Francisco Walking Tours

Rita Takenouchi

Eleanor Wong Telemaque

Wild SF Walking Tours