



Summer 2025



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

SUMMER PICNIC

Heritage and Visitors Center

411 Bernard Street, Los
Angeles, CA 90012

**Saturday,
August 16, 2025**

11AM - 2PM

Bring \$20 Cash

OR

**MAIN DISH, VEGETABLE
DISH, OR SALAD THAT
SERVES 8-10 PEOPLE**

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

PLEASE RSVP: chssc1975@gmail.com



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Our Nation's Diversity

From the beginning of time humankind has pondered the existential question: who am I, and why am I here? Where do I/we fit? What is our identity? Are we Chinese or American? After Chinese Exclusion was repealed in 1943, it took a little longer for our Asian American identity to emerge. Race covenants in property ownership were struck down in 1948, school desegregation began, neighborhoods “opened up”, job opportunities emerged. This after we helped build our national infrastructure, fought in our wars.

More than 50 years ago, some community leaders recognized the need to learn more about ourselves and our history. The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was born. We grew in membership. We journeyed far and wide to discover and learn. We listened to scholars and ordinary people. We collected stories and important records. We shared by publishing.

All of this effort has greatly increased the body of knowledge and reinforced the understanding that Chinese Americans have always been an integral part of American history. We have also learned that we share our history with other Asian Americans, with Native Americans, with African Americans, with Mexican Americans, and many, many others. Our nation has achieved greatness because of our diversity, and I hope we can continue our learning journey.

NOTICE: *We have decided to POSTPONE our 2025 Yosemite Pilgrimage due to personnel changes at Yosemite NP, and due to uncertain management support given new policy directives related to historical interpretation at national parks. Stay tuned.*

Eugene Moy

Board of Directors

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Eugene Moy, President
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Isaac Chu, Secretary
Anthony Miu, Treasurer

Members at Large

Linda Bentz
David Castro
Susan Dickson
Gordon Hom
Victoria Hong
Angela Lancaster
Susie Ling

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Inc. shall be:

- to advocate for a wider understanding of the significance of the role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in the history of Southern California;
- to bring together people with a mutual interest in the Southern California history of Chinese and Chinese Americans;
- to perform all the functions required to acquire, preserve, and communicate knowledge of this important history; and
- to promote a better appreciation of our rich multi-cultural society.



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History Day LA



This past June, four students from Temple Intermediate School in Rosemead—Christy Lieu, Manting (Alina) Wang, Katharine Wu, and Jia Wei (Vivi) Zhong—represented California at the 51st Annual National History Day (NHD) Contest, held at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. This prestigious academic competition brought together more than 3,000 students from all 50 states and from countries such as China, Korea, Singapore,

Thailand. Although called National History “Day,” the program is actually a year-long process that encourages the study of history beyond rote memorization. This year's theme was *“Rights and Responsibilities in History.”* Students in grades 6–12 engage in inquiry- and project-based learning centered on finding connections to that theme. The Temple team advanced through county and state contests before earning their place on the national stage. Competing in the Junior Group Exhibit category, they earned 2nd place for their project titled *“Denied Rights, Embraced Responsibility: The Displacement and Rebuilding of LA’s Chinatown.”*

The students began their project in October with a shared interest in learning more about Chinese American history. Inspired by their Chinese heritage, they explored the impact of exclusionary laws and the importance of community self-reliance. A visit to LA’s Chinatown, the Chinese American Museum and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California early in their research offered invaluable insights. Wanting to focus on the throughline of gentrification, the students focused their history project on the story of LA’s original Chinatown, a community displaced in the 1930s to make way for Union Station. Through extensive primary source research which included archival materials from the Peter SooHoo Collection at the Huntington Library and oral histories from the Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project, the team uncovered how discriminatory laws and redevelopment sought to uproot and erase a thriving community. At the same time, they highlighted the resilience of Chinese Americans who, led by SooHoo, embraced the responsibility of rebuilding a New Chinatown as the first Chinese-planned and -owned community in the United States.

Their research and experience led them to an important realization, expressed in their own words: *“Ethnic enclaves have been refuges for marginalized communities, but gentrification threatens their survival. Los Angeles Chinatown’s history demonstrates that a community with limited rights can be erased if it does not stand up and take on the responsibility for fighting and rebuilding. Today, Chinatown again faces gentrification, highlighting the ongoing struggle between marginalized communities’ rights and the duty of landlords and city officials to redevelop responsibly. Protecting these ethnic enclaves is about more than just safeguarding places; it’s about protecting communities’ identities, histories and people. It’s about fighting for responsible redevelopment that meets the community’s needs for housing and essential resources.”*

This experience reflects how programs like National History Day empower young people to uncover difficult truths, amplify untold stories, and take an active role in shaping the historical narrative themselves.



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Chinatown Counter-Archives

On a sunny Saturday, the CHSSC hosted a workshop organized by artists Evelyn Hang Yin and Jeffrey Yoo Warren. Entitled “Chinatown Counter-Archives: Relational Reconstructions.” The goal, supported by grants from the 1882 Foundation and the Mellon Foundation, was to support an experience between local artists and community people to learn more about the historic China Alley community in Hanford CA. Before work started, 90-year old CHSSC member Joe Wong shared a little about his family history, but importantly, brought and showed a very similar wooden stool, made almost a century ago, by Joe’s father in his home village in China.

The hands-on project was to construct a replica of an old wooden bench or stool found in China Alley. Evelyn and Jeffrey supplied the wood, tools, nails, and finishing sandpaper, and supervised six teams of stool makers in successfully completing their projects. Participants were then able to view, through a specially-made headset, a “relational reconstruction” of China Alley that incorporated historic images of China Alley. The workshop demonstrated a new way of learning about our history.

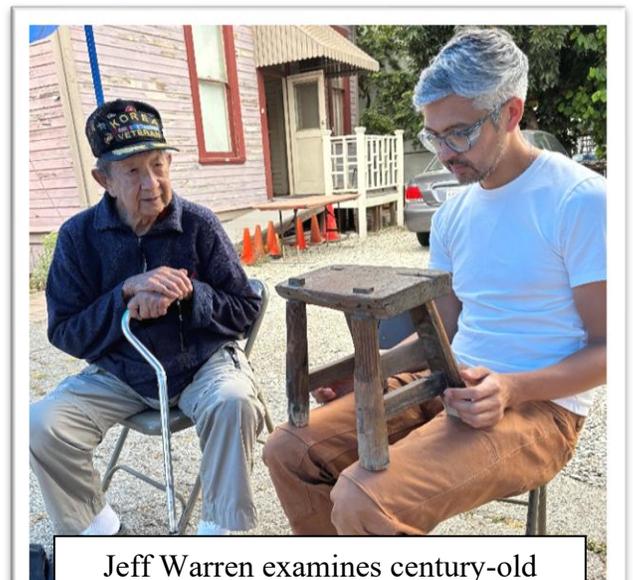


Evelyn Yang Yin is an interdisciplinary artist and filmmaker who has been exploring and making images of historic Chinese heritage sites in California and the American West. An MFA alumnus of Cal Arts in Photography and media, she is currently based in Los Angeles.

Jeffrey Yoo Warren is an artist-educator based in Providence, Rhode Island who discovered that his neighborhood once had a bustling Chinatown. Using archival photos and oral histories, he has created interactive 3-D models of historic Chinese communities in Providence, and in Truckee and Hanford in CA. He was appointed by the Library of Congress as its 2023 Innovator in Residence.



Workshop participants and their finished stools



Jeff Warren examines century-old stool brought by Joe Wong



Emily Huang – Summer Intern



Emily Huang is a sophomore at the University of California, Riverside where she is majoring in Education. Born and raised in Los Angeles Chinatown, Emily chose CHSSC and the Chinatown Service Center to complete 40 hours of coursework volunteer time this summer. Previously, she has volunteered for the LAUSD headquarters, Para Los Niños, and the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association Trial Skills for Teens (SCCLA).

ACCESSING OUR ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS ONLINE

Andy Tan, our former contract archivist and co-presenter at our June meeting, has provided these instructions to help you listen to or read the transcripts of the many oral histories collected in our 1979-1983 Southern California Oral History Project.

- 1) Go to chssc.org.
- 2) Scroll past the banner images and click **Digital Archive**. This will bring you to a page listing all of CHSSC's digital collections.
- 3) Click **Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project** towards the bottom of the page. You will land on a page with a brief explanation of the history of the project.
- 4) At the top of the page, you can search for a person or keyword in the search bar or you can click:
 - **Interviewees** to browse interview recordings, transcript and photos grouped by participant.
 - **Other Photos** to browse photos that were contributed by people who were not interviewed as part of the project.
 - **Browse** to explore photos grouped by subject, location, and other keywords.



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CHINESE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Join us for our 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION "Saving our History" 1975-2025

Saturday, November 8, 2025

4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, - Cocktail Reception & Archival Exhibits

6:30 pm to 9:00pm - Dinner & Program

Golden Dragon Restaurant
960 N. Broadway, LA Chinatown 90012

Tickets

Individual Sponsors - \$150

The deadline for Individual Sponsors has been extended to August 16, 2025.

After that, Individual Sponsor tickets will be \$175 per person

Purchases can be made via our website at CHSSC.org

or you can send checks to:

411 Bernard Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please make checks payable to:

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

and note "50th Anniversary Sponsorship" in the memo line



Scan to buy tickets



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Steve Tom and assistant carry in a silent auction prize for our 50th Anniversary dinner



Wilbert Lew is interviewed by USC film student Miao Hao about his father's Sing Lee Theater on Spring Street.



Temple Akiba (Culver City) members at beginning of Chinatown walking tour

Donations

- Cindy Fujimoto
- Anna Gee
- The Haunt Ghost Tours
- Angela Lancaster
- Judy Lee
- Bennie Lim
- Susie Ling
- Patricia Mar
- Len Tang

Donations

- Clifford M. Tom
- Alexandra Villegas
- Betty Wong
- Nancy and Jimmy Wong
- Candace Woo

In Memory of Chong Lew

- Dr. Michael W. and Kristin K. Lew



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Community Events

Aug 16 CHSSC Picnic 11-2 at 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, Chinatown

Aug 30-Sep 1 and Oct 4-6 Backpacking trips to Sing Peak, named after Tie Sing, renowned camp cook. Contact co-organizer Dennis Arguelles: darguelles@npca.org

Aug 28-Sep 2 140th Anniversary Commemoration of 1885 Rock Springs Massacre

Organized by past board members Ricky and Grace Leo, this event will involve visits to historic sites and museums, and talks by scholars in Wyoming along the route of the first transcontinental railroad. The program culminates in the dedication of a new monument. For reservations, see <https://www.rockspringscommemoration.org/>

Sep 4 Chinese American Museum's History maker Awards Gala at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel