



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

February 2026

LITTLE MANILA



WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 4, 2026



STARTS AT
7PM



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Today there is no trace that “Little Manila” ever existed in DTLA. Learn about the presence of “Little Manila”, circa 1920s - 1940s, a cultural-business-entertainment hub serving mostly male Filipino laborers when the Philippines was a territory of the United States. Writer and poet, Carlos Bulosan, lived amongst the Filipinos in “Little Manila” as he rose to become a significant literary figure during this era.



GERALD GUBATAN

FREE TO ATTEND. RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE ON CHSSC WEBSITE: [HTTPS://CHSSC.ORG](https://chssc.org)



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

February 2026

Reflections

Message from V.P. Robert Chong

Happy New Year to all. As the calendar pages denote “2026”, and CHSSC is now into its second semicentennial, it is time to reflect back on the individuals, events, and experiences that were worthy moments of profoundness.

In 1975, after two years of planning by three founders, Paul Louie, William Mason, and Paul De Falla, CHSSC held its first meeting. Stan Lau was elected the first CHSSC president. Forming the backbone of the organization, CHSSC welcomed 106 Charter Members, including the incomparable Munson Kwok, who was Charter Member #2.

In its early days, CHSSC actively established itself, including co-sponsoring the Lang Station Historical Marker commemorating the Chinese railroad worker's contributions to the Southern Pacific line connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles and the centennial of the Western Golden Spike ceremony. Also in 1976, CHSSC marched in the Chinatown Dragon Parade (and has been a continued participant) as well as joining the Lotus Festival at Echo Park.

In 1977, CHSSC organized the First Family History Workshop at UCLA, while publishing the first edition of the *Gum Saan Journal*.

In 1979, CHSSC collaborated with the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA, to conceive the Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project.

Throughout the years, CHSSC has established the Walking Tour (1981), published several books, and taken many field trips (including Yosemite and the 130th Anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike that completed the Transcontinental Railroad). CHSSC has had the fortuitous support of its members and donors allowing it to purchase: a 19th Century Shrine in Evergreen Cemetery, recognized as the earliest structural evidence of Chinese culture in Los Angeles, and the two late 19th Century Queen Anne style houses at 411 and 415 Bernard Street – now the Chinatown Heritage Center.

Board of Directors

Officers

Eugene Moy, President
Robert Chong, Vice President
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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October 2025

In 1995, CHSSC began a three-year project to profile Chinese American veterans who served in World War Two, culminating with the publication of *Duty & Honor*.

In 2010, CHSSC participated in the MTA dedication of the Memorial Wall and reburial field at Evergreen Cemetery, honoring those whose remains were disturbed during the construction of the Metro Gold Line.

In 2022, CHSSC launched its redesigned website: <https://chssc.org>, for public and online access to CHSSC events, programs, digital assets, photographs & images, and audio files, among the contents.

Reflecting back on 2025, CHSSC had many memorable monthly programs, including: a spotlight on Chinese truck farmers (February program), tracing the history of the Chinese in Truckee, CA (March program), recapping the Rock Springs Commemoration (August program) and speakers of renown, including Professor Emerita Sue Fawn Chung and Russell Low (November program). And, of course, 2025 was a year for celebration, including Summer Picnic (August 16), 50th Anniversary Dinner (November 8) and CHSSC Christmas Party (December 8). CHSSC has also had many great individuals of leadership, some of whom were honored at its 50th Anniversary Dinner, including: Eugene Moy, Dr. Munson Kwok, Dr. Kiphan Kan, Susan Dickson, Kenneth L. Chan, Gordon Hom, Dr. Don Loo and Ricky Leo – many who continue with their invaluable contributions and dedication.

CHSSC would like to express acknowledgment and recognition to the numerous volunteers, docents, supporters, donors, community partners, and dignitaries, throughout the years, in 2025, and for years to come.

Robert Chong, Vice President

CHSSC Christmas Potluck in Cerritos

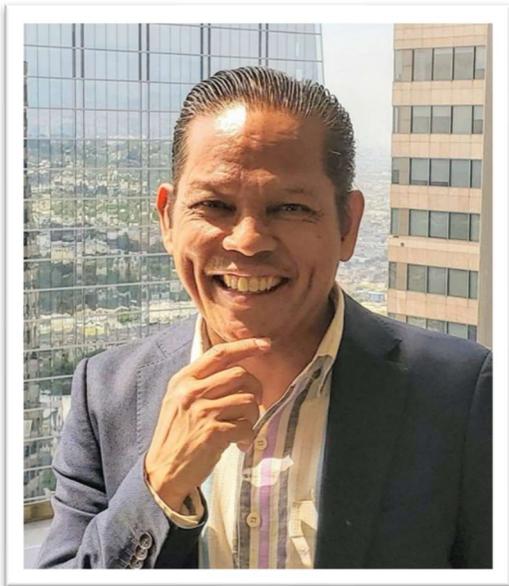




Program information for the NNN

Name of Program:

“Little Manila in DTLA, and Carlos Bulosan’s Los Angeles”



Brief Speaker Biography:

Gerald G. Gubatan is co-editor of the anthology, “Filipinotown: Voices From Los Angeles,” a collection of stories by and about people connected to Historic Filipinotown. Gerald is an Urban Planner who has served elected officials at L. A. City Hall and Sacramento’s State Capitol. He is the founding board president of Fil-Am Arts, Inc. A proud graduate of Belmont High School in Los Angeles, Gerald attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from UCLA and completed graduate studies in urban planning at California Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Program Description:

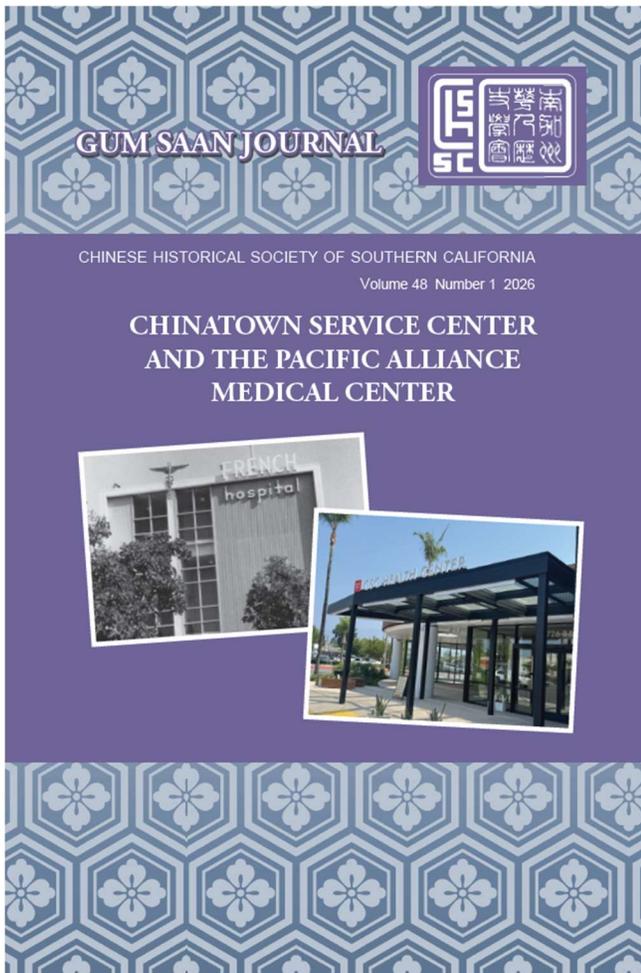
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The January program was halted due to an intrusion. Beginning in February, CHSSC will use a Zoom Webinar format. Those viewing the webinar will be asked to submit questions in the chat room.

Sign up on our website through Eventbrite.



2026 Gum Saan Journal: Chinatown Service Center and the Pacific Alliance Medical Center



Your membership dues support *Gum Saan Journal (GSJ)* that captures vignettes of our local Chinese American history. Because if we don't, who will? In Volume 48, we share four stories.

In 1971, a group of community leaders hired multilingual Joyce Law as the first employee of Chinatown Service Center (CSC). For this *GSJ*, we interviewed two early volunteers - Pearl Young Wong and Vicky Wong - plus three of Chinatown Service Center's CEO's: Irene Chu (1977-1989), Deborah Ching (1989-2000), and Peter Ng (2012-present). From a little desk with a rotary phone at the Chinese Methodist Church, CSC now has a presence in five cities with 365 staff members. Said Peter Ng, "From the very beginning, our mission was clear. We all lean on that history of community service."

GSJ 2026's second story is about what many still refer to as the "French Hospital" in Chinatown. Dr. Julius Sue and Dr. Mark Yen

Lee led the 1950s generation of Chinese American medical pioneers. In 1989, the French Hospital became the Pacific Alliance Medical Center (PAMC). *GSJ* got some of that back story from Dr. T. G. Wing Chow, Dr. Thomas Hwee, Dr. Carl Moy, and Dr. S. Y. Wong. These doctors are such a testimonial to hard work and community service.

Dr. Paul Chace shares a piece about Riverside's Chee Kung Tong's support of the 1911 Chinese Revolution.

We conclude with a book review of Dr. Karen Fang's 490-page tome entitled *Background Artist: The Life and Work of Tyrus Wong*. Immigrating to Old Chinatown as a boy of ten in 1920, Tyrus' biography spans 100 years of Los Angeles' Chinese American history.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

February 2026

CHSSC 50th Anniversary Banquet



CHSSC 50th Anniversary Banquet Photo Booth





**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

南加州華人歷史學會

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
info@chssc.org • (323) 352-8824 • <https://chssc.org/>



Mission Statement

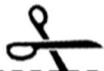
Established in 1975, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) unites people with a mutual interest in promoting the rich heritage of Chinese and Chinese American history. Our mission is to pursue, preserve and communicate the history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California.

What We Do

- Conduct monthly meetings and public presentations on Chinese American History.
- Sponsor and participate in symposiums, exhibits and conferences.
- Conduct Chinatown walking tours for students and public.
- Lead the annual Lunar New Year Golden Dragon Parade.

Research and Publication

- Publication of multiple books by renowned scholars.
- The Gum Saan Journal is the Society's annual publication.
- Maintain a library with thousands of topics related to Chinese American topics.
- Maintain an archive consisting of oral histories, archaeological collections, photographs and family histories.



New Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Membership Levels	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$ 60
<input type="checkbox"/> 100x100 Club	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$ 300
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) or student	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Hardcopy newsletter	\$ 30
Donation (tax deductible)	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

To join or renew your membership by debit card, credit card, or by using your PayPal account, visit our website at chssc.org.

Please make checks payable to CHSSC



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

Community Events

Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Lunar New Year Celebration, February 15, 2026 (watch website, chssc.org for details)

Miss Chinatown Pageant, February 8, 2026, Bonaventure Hotel

Chinese New Year – Year of the Fire Horse, February 17, 2026

Golden Dragon Parade, February 21, 2026, L.A. Chinatown

L.A. Firecracker 5/10k Run/Walk, March 1, 2026