

NEWS'N NOTES



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-352-8824 Email: info@chssc.org
Website: <https://chssc.org>

Summer 2026



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

AUGUST 15, 2026
12:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

SUMMER PICNIC

**Bring \$20 Cash
or
Main Dish,
Vegetable Dish or
Salad that Serves
8-10 People**

Heritage and Visitors Center

411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please RSVP: info@chssc.org



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fifty years ago, our Chinese Historical Society was founded. Fifty years ago, I immigrated to Los Angeles and became associated with the Society soon after. Yes, it is about time I take on more of the responsibilities of our shared ambition. Yes, I know most all the preceding CHSSC presidents – and their teams - and, oh boy, ginormous shoes to fill.

First thing I did was to deep dive into our accounting. I can tell you we are solvent and that our bookkeeping volunteers have worked very hard. CHSSC has three major expense categories: (1) Management, (2) Archives, and (3) Programs. “Management” includes software and IT, insurance, security, and a 10-week paint job on the 1885 structures on Bernard (done!). Little of this is sexy.

Our Archives and Program teams have been the dynamic part of CHSSC. In recent years, there has been much invested in digitizing our shared history and experiences. We work with youngsters with MLIS and Asian American studies devotion. We provide access to ongoing research at many levels. Under “Programs”, Lisa See came in July to make us cry and inspire us to continue. We will soon have Grant Din tell about his work with genealogy and the importance of NARA. More to come as the current Board team is certainly filled with great ideas.

The silver lining of my learning binge is that I realize PEOPLE LIKE YOU keep supporting us. We not only survive – but thrive - on a steady trickle of sweet donations. This implies you know our work, you believe in our mission, and you value our diligence. You come to our picnics. We are grateful. We are humbled.

人心齊，泰山移

If our hearts are aligned, Mount Tai can shift

(FYI: This proverb rhymes in Chinese. The suggestion is that people united in determination can perform miracles. Mt. Tai in Shandong province is China's most sacred. Mt. Tai is not the same as Taishan/Toisan 台山 – but a homonym, a happy coincidence.

Susie Ling

Board of Directors

Officers

Susie Ling, President
Robert Chong, Vice President
Isaac Chu, Secretary
Anthony Miu, Treasurer

Members at Large

Linda Bentz
Samson Chow
Susan Dickson
Gordon Hom
Victoria Hong
Angela Lancaster
Eugene Moy
David Castro

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.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

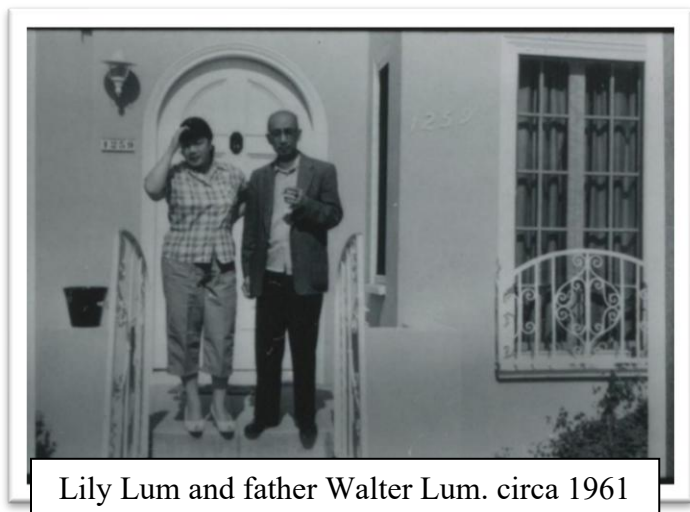
Summer 2026

Riona Tsai, CHSSC Community Archivist

Susie Ling

Riona Tsai is often at 415 Bernard Street! She is the one buried behind file boxes and documents. Since she was an undergrad at UCR, she has been working on our archives and Story Maps. Born and raised in Cupertino, Riona reads and speaks Mandarin. She said, "My parents had me going to Chinese school all my life, six days a week! Who knew I would now be very grateful?" Riona's father is from Taiwan, and her Sze Yup mother was born and raised in Pakistan. After her double major in Media and Cultural Studies and Public History at UCR, Riona completed her MLIS degree from UCLA in 2025.

Riona is now CHSSC's full-time archivist. Some of her work is administrative, "I'm writing procedure, organizing our system, and updating our inventory." She also oversees the work of other interns. 415 gets pretty busy especially in the summer! Riona is proud to have done Story Maps for our Five Chinatowns Project, our Grandview Gardens project, our LA Drum and Bugle Corps project, and our Walking Tour project. "But my favorite collection - if I can have a favorite - is the Lily Lum Chan collection," said Riona. "Lily (1906-2005) was the daughter of Walter Lum, co-founder of C.A.C.A. and publisher of *The Chinese Times* in San Francisco. And Lily was quite the activist herself here in Los Angeles. We have about 16 boxes in her collection!" Riona added, "I feel lucky that I can work and grow my own skillset while contributing to my community. I deeply care about Chinese American studies." Well, Riona, CHSSC are the lucky ones to have you at (our newly painted) 415 Bernard Street.



Lily Lum and father Walter Lum. circa 1961



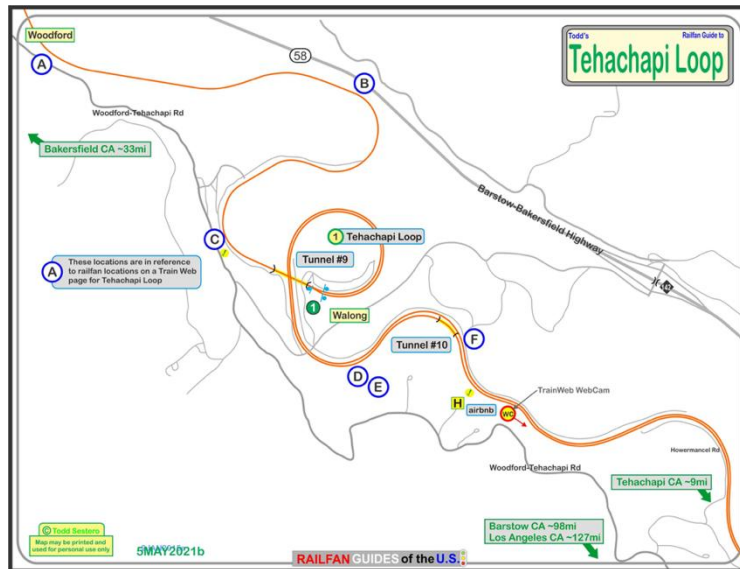
Riona Tsai



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150th "Wedding" Anniversary at Lang



150 years ago - on Sept 5, 1876 - there was a "wedding of the rails" at Lang Station. This was the golden spike ceremony for the linking of San Francisco and Los Angeles by train. This access was the beginning of the making of Los Angeles as a megalopolis. As trains can only climb a 2.2% incline, the engineering to pass the Sierra Nevada and Transverse Ranges (San Gabriel Mountains) was a challenge. In Kern County, thousands of Chinese, working mostly with hand tools, built the "Tehachapi Loop" with 18 tunnels and 10 bridges. Chinese pioneers then extended this train line to Lang Station, a narrow valley in northern Los Angeles County.

On September 5, 2026, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will lead a commemoration of this 150th anniversary. Gene Moy, who was at the 100th anniversary and 125th anniversary of Lang, will represent the Chinese Historical Society - and our ancestors. The special ceremony will begin at 10 am at the Lang Southern Pacific Station and continue at River's End Pub and BBQ restaurant with friends, food and booths. Lang Station is about an hour north of Chinatown in LA County. (Lang is in LA County)

Directions: Follow I-5 N and CA-14 N to Soledad Canyon Rd. Take exit 11 from CA-14 N. Drive to Lang Station Rd.



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150 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF LANG STATION



JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY IN COMMEMORATING OUR
PIONEERS WHO LINKED THE RAILS FROM SAN FRANCISCO
TO LOS ANGELES IN 1876.

SEPT 5, 2026

10:00 A.M. AT LANG SOUTHERN PACIFIC STATION
(ABOUT 1 HR. NORTH OF CHINATOWN, IN LA COUNTY)



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China Society Invites LACMA's Curator

Stephen Little, Head of Chinese, Korean, and South and Southeast Asian Art, will give a presentation about Asian art displays at the new Geffen Pavilion.

- Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 N. Broadway, Los Angeles Chinatown
- Thursday, September 3, 2026
- Check-in and Social: 4:00 P.M.
- Dinner at 4:45 P.M. \$40 per person, pay at the door, cash or check
- Program at 6:00 P.M. No cost.



RSVP: Yvonnechang8@gmail.com

New Novel on 1871 Massacre: Lisa See, July 9, 2026

Lisa See attracted some 260 guests





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Fresh Paint

Our 2025 Giving Tuesday fundraising effort focused on the need to restore and preserve our 2 Victorian homes. Peeling paint and broken windows required extensive work to protect our heritage center. Repairing the front porch railing was on our immediate list of safety concerns.

With the aid of generous donors, the prep work for the painting began in May. After 10 weeks of hard work our “facelift” has been completed. Come see the results of our efforts at our picnic on Saturday, August 15.



415 Bernard Street



411 Bernard Street

In memory of Marian Chew

Richard and Jeannie Liu

Donations

Bruce Chin
Patricia Mar
Clifford Tan
Feng-en Tu
Sophie Wong
Benita Yu



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Community Events

August 10 (Noon-2PM) and August 12 (10AM-Noon): Dr. Selia Tan @ Chinatown Library RSVP **REQUIRED** programs@chinesefamilyhistory.org

August 15: CHSSC Summer Picnic @ 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles

August 29: 4PM-7PM Alpine Recreation Center, 817 Yale Street, Los Angeles

September 3: China Society Program. Speaker: Stephen Little (See info on page 6)

September 5: 10AM 150th Anniversary of Lang Station. Meet at Lang Southern Pacific Station. Lunch at River's End BBQ