



SEPTEMBER 2010



Memorial Wall at Los Angeles County Crematorium. Photo by Gilbert Hom

Remembering Our Ancestors

Dedication of Memorial Wall

Saturday September 4, 2010 10:00 a.m.

*Los Angeles County Crematorium
3301 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA
(Southeast corner of Evergreen Cemetery)*

Access driveway from westbound lane on 1st Street.

- 10:00 a.m. Traditional Chinese ceremony*
- 11:00 a.m. Dedication of Memorial Wall*
- 12:00 noon Multi-Faith Prayer for reburied Ancestors*
- 12:30 p.m. Lite Lunch*

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California would like to invite the community to join in the dedication of the Memorial Wall and Meditation Garden. The program will be from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. A light lunch will be served after the dedication.

Assemblyman Mike Eng, other dignitaries and members of the Boyle Heights Historical Society, the Chinese American Museum, the First Taoist Foundation and the Studio for Southern California History will be in attendance also. There will be a special Chinese traditional blessing for the spirits of our ancestors and a multi-faith prayer ceremony for the 131 recently reburied ancestors who had been removed from their graves during the construction of the Gold Line.

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Remembering Our Ancestors continued

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The memorial wall and meditation gardens were created in honor of the ancestors of the forgotten graves outside of Evergreen Cemetery. CHSSC learned of the graves through a 2005 expose article in the LA Weekly, which revealed that a cemetery was unearthed at the Los Angeles County Crematorium. Several of the graves were Chinese. CHSSC board members who went to the crematorium after reading the article were shocked to see grave markers from the old Chinese cemetery being used to line the driveway where the county's unclaimed or indigent bodies are cremated.

The Department of Health Services which also oversees the LA County/USC Medical Center was just as surprised and apologized immediately. The DHS and County Supervisor Gloria Molina held public meetings in Chinatown where they invited the community to suggest ways to remedy this tragic situation. The community, the Department of Health Services and Supervisor Gloria Molina strongly supported a memorial be placed at the crematorium as a way to remember this forgotten cemetery for generations to come.



The Old Chinese Cemetery

The unearthed cemetery existed since the late 1870s. Due to the racism at that time, a separate section of this cemetery was sold to the Chinese. By 1923, the cemetery was full with over 13,000 graves, including nearly 1,500 Chinese graves. The county decided it would no longer provide burials and would cremate unclaimed bodies. Eventually, the old cemetery was completely buried with 4 to 14 feet of dirt.

In the 1960s, a large section was sold to adjoining Evergreen Cemetery, including part of the old Chinese cemetery and Chinese altar, without notifying the Chinese community. Some families and family associations learned about these changes during their yearly visit to honor their ancestors.

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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.



SEPTEMBER 2010

Meet Robert Chao Romero
author of

The Chinese in Mexico 1882-1940

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Castelar School
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking - enter via College Street

*The event is open and free to the public.
Refreshments will be served.*



An estimated 60,000 Chinese entered Mexico during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, constituting Mexico's second-largest foreign ethnic community at the time. The *Chinese in Mexico, 1882-1940* provides a social history of Chinese immigration to and settlement in Mexico in the context of the global Chinese diaspora of the era.

Romero's study is based on a wide array of Mexican and U.S. archival sources. It draws from such quantitative and qualitative sources as oral histories, census records, consular reports, INS interviews, and legal documents. Two sources, used for the first time in this kind of study, provide a comprehensive sociological and historical window into the lives of Chinese immigrants in Mexico during these years: the Chinese Exclusion Act case files of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the 1930 Mexican municipal census manuscripts. From these documents, Romero crafts a vividly personal and compelling story of individual lives caught in an extensive network of early transnationalism.

Robert Chao Romero is an Assistant Professor in the UCLA Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies. He received his J.D. from U.C. Berkeley and his Ph.D. in Latin American history from UCLA.

The Story of Tsinoyos *Chinese in the Philippines*

Presented by Susie Ling

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Castelar School
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking - enter via College Street

*The event is open and free to the public.
Refreshments will be served.*



President Corazon Aquino, Cardinal Jaime Sin, and national hero Jose Rizal were all Tsinoyos. In fact, about 20% of Filipinos have some Chinese ancestry. As the Philippines is so close to Fujian province, Chinese influence in Filipino culture dates back centuries and is as ubiquitous as pancit and lumpia. The first Spanish-established Chinatown was the Parian, which later became Binondo. These Chinatowns survive through massacres, revolutions, wars, and martial law.

This program is co-sponsored by CHSSC and the Filipino American National Historical Society, Los Angeles Chapter. Susie Ling was born in Taiwan and raised in Los Banos, Laguna. She is Associate Professor of History at Pasadena City College.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at chssc@hotmail.com

Community Calendar

Saturday, September 4, 2010 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 PM
Dedication of the Memorial Wall & Meditation Garden at the Los Angeles County Crematorium.
chsscorg.blogspot.com/2010/08/remembering-our-ancestors.html

Charlotte Rees - Secret Maps of the Ancient World
Fuels the controversial debate about whether the Chinese arrived in America before Columbus.

Monday, September 13, 2010 7:00 pm Free
Cerritos Library 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos 90703

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 7:00 pm
Ventura Co. Maritime Museum 2731 S. Victoria Av.Oxnard, CA

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 7:00 P.M.
The Chinese in Mexico 1882-1940
Meet the author Robert Chao Romero.
Castelar School, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday, September 16, 2010 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Southern Fried Rice:
Life in a Chinese Laundry in the Deep South
Meet author Dr. John Jung - professor of Psychology Emeritus, He will also be talking about "Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton," an account of the Mississippi Delta Chinese Grocers.
Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library,
318 S. Ramona Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91754

Sunday, September 19, 2010
14TH Annual Historymakers Awards Banquet
Hilton Universal City / Los Angeles Hilton / Sierra Ballroom
555 Universal Drive, Universal City, CA 91608 www.camla.org

Sunday, September 19, 2010
Sacramento Chinatown Culture Fair
www.yeefow.com/culturefair

Saturday, September 24, 2010 6:30-10pm
Chinatown Service Center 38th Anniversary Dinner
San Gabriel Hilton 225 W. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91776
www.cscla.org

Saturday, September 24, 2010 6:30-10pm
10th Anniversary Celebration Chinese American Citizens Alliance Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge
"Students Today...Leaders Tomorrow"
Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., Suite 300 Monterey Park, CA 91754

Saturday, September 25, 2010 5:30-10pm
Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
Central Plaza 943-951 N. Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 7:00pm
The Story of Tsinoy, Chinese in the Philippines
Presented by Susie Ling. Co-sponsored by CHSSC and the Filipino American National Historical Society, L.A. Chapter.
Castelar School, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012