

NEWS'N NOTES



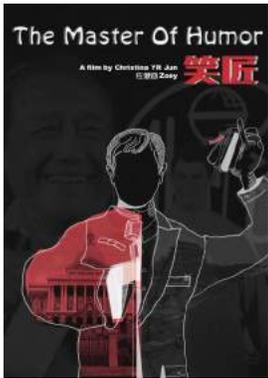
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: info@chssc.org
Website: www.chssc.org

MAY 2019

May Monthly Meeting:

This month there will be a screening of four short films by USC Film and Television M.F.A students themed around their study abroad in China.



Christina YR Jun is a Korean-American director and writer. Her work has been selected at multiple film festivals including the SAG-AFTRA Foundation Short Film Showcase, Geena Davis' Bentonville Film Festival and CAAMFest. Most recently, Christina co-directed *Samir*, a feature film funded & distributed by Warner Bros Studios and produced by USC. Christina has a BA in creative writing from the

University of Illinois at Chicago, is an alumni of Yale University's directing lab and an MFA from USC with an emphasis in directing and screenwriting.

Master of Comedy explores the Beijing local comedy scene and the efforts of one immigrant from Boston whose life's work is to bridge cultural division through the art of comedy.

Santiago Rodriguez Herran was born in Buenos Aires and grew up in Argentina, Austria and Switzerland. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Bern, he worked for several years in the private as well as in the public sector in Switzerland. In 2015 he moved to Los Angeles, to pursue his true passion, film making.

In *Hutong Man*, a small and humble family lives in traditional northern Chinese housing and upholds cultural traditions, whilst the mega-city they live in, Beijing, has long evolved past them.



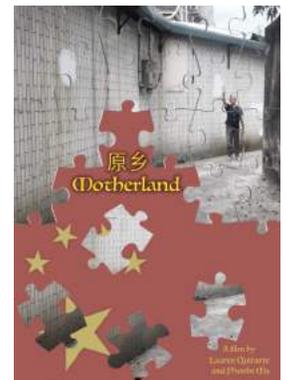
Lydia Lane is a graduate of the University of Southern California's Film and Television M.F.A. Program. She attended Stephens College for her undergraduate education, earning a degree in Digital Filmmaking.

Instead of moving back to her hometown of Aurora, Missouri once her degree was completed, she moved to Los Angeles, and spent five years working as a Residential Counselor with homeless and foster teens, learning as much from them as she hopes they learned from her. As a filmmaker, Lydia aspires to tell stories about people who aren't often seen by those outside their communities. She hopes that in doing so she can encourage acceptance and understanding in the world.

The Gays examines the lives of two gay men living in Beijing China. One is a British ex-pat, the other a native Chinese.

Lauren Quirarte is a Chinese-Mexican American Film Producer. She focuses on producing films revolving around women, human connection, and social issues. She produced a short film *The Dust Trail*, which portrays untold immigration stories and produced the "#MeToo" PSA's which explore young women's stories and seek to promote change in society.

In her film *Motherland*, a Chinese-American reconnects with her Mama in her grandmother's land.



Wednesday, May 1, 2019

6:30PM(check-in and refreshments), 7:00-9:00PM (program)
C.A.C.A. LA Lodge (behind Phoenix Bakery)
415 Bamboo Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking available on the street (meters run until 8PM) and at
Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza.



Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors 2019-2010

The following have been nominated to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors for 2019-2020.*

Officers

President –Susan Dickson
Vice President—Linda Bentz
Secretary—Felicia Tabing
Treasurer—Teresa Chung
VP for Programs –Gordon Hom
Membership Secretary—Gene Moy

Members at Large for 2-Year Term

(2 open seats)

Members at Large returning for the 2nd year of a 2-year term

(Not for election)

John Chan
Wendy Chung
Cindy Fong
Laureen Hom
Winifred Lew
Franklin Mah

Board members serve from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The Board of Directors meet on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 am-11:30 am. Board members have opportunities to serve on committees such as Archive Committee, Programs Committee, Outreach Committee, etc. Committees meet at various agreed-upon dates and times.

The election will take place at the June 5th meeting at the C.A.C.A. Los Angeles lodge.

**We will accept nominations from the floor at the May meeting.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Susan Dickson, President
Donald Loo, Vice President
Linda Bentz, Secretary
Teresa Chung, Treasurer
Gordon Hom, VP for Programs
Eugene W. Moy, Membership Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

John Chan
Wendy Chung
Cindy Fong
Laureen Hom
Henry Leong
Winifred Lew
Franklin Mah
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-Americans community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



CHSSC outreach events

Firecracker5k/10K Race Committee dinner (4/11) Two board members represented CHSSC to network with community and receive a generous donation from the Race Committee.

Walking tour for interns (4/14) We provided a Chinatown walking tour for our CSUN interns and archival staff

Golden West College walking tour (4/19) We gave a walking tour for 43 community college students and staff from the Center for Global and Cultural Programs.

UPCOMING:

Chinaweek panel (4:00-6:00PM, 5/14) The May 14 program from 4:00-6:00 PM at UCLA is a partnership with the UCLA Asia



For more general information on Chinaweek, check the Community Calendar on the back page.

Pacific Center and will feature talks by scholars and faculty. Eugene Moy will represent the CHSSC on a panel “The Transformation of Chinese America.” The forum focuses on the ways in which immigration and US-China relations have shaped Chinese American life over time. This program is free but RSVPs are requested:

<https://international.ucla.edu/apc/event/13777>

Walking tour for team CFO (3:00 PM, 5/18) Prospective docents invited to tag along.

Arcadia Library talk (2:00 PM, 8/17) Board member Eugene Moy presents a talk on *Early Chinese in Arcadia and the San Gabriel Valley (and beyond)*.

April Meeting Recap: the Transcontinental Railroad, separating fact from fiction

As part of celebrating the 150th anniversary of completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, and the contributions of Chinese railroad workers, Gene Moy started the meeting with a comprehensive presentation on the history of Chinese railroad workers with plenty of photographs, timelines, and discussed a few of the myths and facts perpetuated by photos and illustrations. Gene presented the example of an illustration of Chinese workers being lowered in baskets with ropes over a cliff to blast out the rock. This photo came 60 years after completion of the railroad, yet many people perpetuate this myth by repeating the story that this actually happened during construction. Another myth perpetuated by photos is that Chinese workers did all aspects of the work, when in reality the Chinese didn't carry the rails; the Irish workers did. Gene pointed out, with a photo to match, that the Chinese did indeed work in the dead

of winter.

Gene then discussed recent efforts at researching Chinese railroad labor history. An aspect in discovering the history of the Chinese railroad workers is the difficulty in finding records. The payroll records would have the name of the gang boss rather than the name of the actual workers. Stanford researchers are now looking towards China for documents about railroad workers.

The meeting ended with a screening of Loni Ding's 2001 video *The Canton Army of the High Sierras* which highlighted the work Chinese contributed and their hardships. Since Gene's presentation incorporated the most current historical research, from institutions like Stanford University, it was evident that the methods of presenting of history is a constantly evolving.



Golden Spike commemoration events

First Transcontinental Railroad Sesquicentennial Activities

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the 1869 completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Thousands of Chinese workers and entrepreneurs helped build one of the major marvels of the 19th century, and many programs have been scheduled this year in recognition of this achievement. *Below is a list of some of the upcoming programs.* A more complete list can be found at www.spike150.org/events

Tuesday, May 7, 2019—6:00-8:00 PM

Union Station, Ogden, UT

Chinese Migrants and the Transcontinental Railroad, presented by Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Professor of English at Stanford University.

www.nowplayingutah.com/event/

Wednesday, May 8, 2019—7:00 PM

Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT

Working on the Railroad: Chinese Workers and America's First Transcontinental Line, presented by Gordon H. Chang, Professor in Humanities at Stanford University.

www.nowplayingutah.com/event/

May 8-9, 2019

Salt Lake City, UT (sold out)

May 10-11, 2019

Ogden, UT

Gold Mountain, written by Jason Ma

Gold Mountain is a musical love story set against the backdrop of a pivotal event in America's history: the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. It is a heartfelt, universal tale that celebrates the striving immigrant spirit, the redemptive power of love, and the ultimate nobility of self-sacrifice among a team of Chinese railroad workers.

<https://www.goldmountainthemusical.com/spike150>

May 8-11, 2019

Salt Lake City, UT

Golden Spike Conference

Organized by the Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association

The CRWDA has organized bus tours, scheduled multiple talks, events and meals, and discounted rooms at the Marriott, City Creek in Salt Lake City. See website for more details:

www.goldenspike150.org

May 10-12, 2019

Golden Spike National Historic Site, UT

The National Park Service has organized a multi-day schedule of activities, including a re-enactment of the driving of the Golden Spike by local actors:

www.nps.gov/gosp/index.htm

In addition to all of the above events, one of the best resources for information on the historic involvement of Chinese in railroad construction can be found on the Stanford Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project web site:

web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/website/

Some very enlightening information about the building of the Central Pacific can be found on this page:

web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/website/faqs/

Due to the multitude of events on different days and the complexity of scheduling and logistics, we have not organized any kind of group transportation to Utah. However, you may wish to work with friends and family to fly or carpool together to Utah. Those who like driving may wish to make an overnight stop in Las Vegas, and from there it's about 6 hours on the open highway to Salt Lake City. The Golden Spike National Historic Site is about another 90 minutes from SIC. Of course, there are many flights to SLC also, and if you register for the conference, there will be transportation available to some of the venues. However you celebrate it....

ENJOY THIS GOLDEN SPIKE YEAR!



Ching Ming Observance

A dedicated and eager band of members and friends gathered at the Chinese shrine in Evergreen Cemetery on Saturday, April 6. Together, we cleaned and re-set grave markers in order to commemorate Ching Ming. Incense was lit at the shrine and flowers were laid on all the pioneer markers. Randy Bloch, who spearheaded efforts to preserve the shrine area, and the historical Donaldina Cameron, an important figure in San Francisco Chinatown missionary history, were remembered. It proved to be a most satisfying outing.

A special shout out to Gordon Hom who arrived at 7:30am with generator, mower, and blower to ready the grass. We also appreciate Susan Sing and Eugene Moy providing the lion's share of the flowers.



After cleaning efforts, Jessica Mei lays flowers at the gravestones. Photo courtesy of O.C. Lee.

Notes on Chinese American History

A column about Chinese American history by CHSSC member, Will Gow, Ph.D.

This May represents the 150th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah. While the 50th and 100th anniversaries of this event were notable for the ways in which they downplayed or excluded the contributions of Chinese Americans to the building of the transcontinental railroad, this will not be the case for the 150th anniversary. In the build up to this event, I have had the honor of working with Stanford's Chinese Railroad Workers in North America project. The project brings together scholars from both sides of the Pacific to document the history of the Chinese laborers who completed this project in 1869. The railroad workers have long held a place in the nation's popular imagination—indeed each year the CHSSC gives out its Gold Spike awards. And yet before this project, surprisingly little information was known about the history of these men and their lives.

To rectify this issue, the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America project brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars with focuses on history, literary studies, archaeology, and ethnic studies to present the most comprehensive study to date on this subject. The project includes a volume, *Chinese And the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental Railroad*, edited by Gordon H. Chang and Shelley Fisher Fishkin and published by Stanford University Press. The project's website chineserailroadworkers.stanford.edu features an oral history collection of interviews with descendants of the railroad workers and other resources for educators.

Among those interviewed was CHSSC Golden Spike recipient Lisa See. Finally the project's co-director Gordon H. Chang published his own sole-authored book on the topic, *Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad*.

For my part, I wrote an essay that appears in the edited volume. My article examines the history of the representation of Chinese laborers in high school US history textbooks since the 19th century. Focusing on books that were published between the Gold Rush and the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act, my article demonstrates that the Chinese railroad worker has a long history in the textbooks of US school children. Chinese railroad workers did not become the dominant representation of Chinese labor during the height of anti-Chinese sentiments in the 1870s and 1880s, as one might expect. Rather the figure emerged only after white hostilities to Chinese had begun to subside. In the process, I argue that the Chinese railroad worker became the most popular representation of Chinese labor because it was able to stand in for both the hopes and fears that many US-born whites held regarding the large wave of Southern and Eastern European immigrants arriving to the United States at the time. While my contribution was small, I was honored to be able to help play a small role in documenting this important part of Asian American history.



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Please help us save paper and postage,
Email us to indicate your preference for an online newsletter at info@chssc.org

Community Calendar

Wednesday, May 1-19, 2019

CHINAWEEK

CHINAWEEK is an NPO organizing events that take place throughout the greater Los Angeles region each year across nine sectors including: arts and culture, business, education, entertainment, environment, public affairs, science and technology, tourism, and philanthropy. Visit chinaweek.la to learn more about the details and schedule of events.

Thursday, May 2-10, 2019

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2019

The 35th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival will be presented at select cinemas in the Los Angeles area. A key highlight of the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month activities, the Festival is produced by Visual Communications, the nation's premier Asian Pacific American media arts center, and enjoys broad support from cinema artists and audiences alike. See festival.vcmedia.org for more information on films, show times, directors, theaters.

Tuesday, May 7, 2019—6:00-9:00PM

150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad Lecture

Join us for a lecture and reception commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad with speaker and Associate Professor Julia H. Lee of the Department of Asian American Studies at UC Irvine. This lecture is presented by the Friends of the Chinese American Museum with CHSSC, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, and Gateway to Nature.

425 N. Los Angeles St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday, May 11, 2019—6:30 doors open, 7:00-10:00PM

2019 UCLA's Chinese American Culture Night; *Echoes of Silence*

Chinese American Culture Night (CACN) is a student run production that the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) puts on every spring. This year's cultural night addresses a very prevalent topic in the Asian-American community that is frequently overlooked partly because of the model minority myth: mental health. The storyline of CACN follows a group of students struggling to make the transition between college and adult life.

Royce Hall, UCLA
10745 Dickson Ct.
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Admission is free; please reserve a ticket here: <https://forms.gle/Lw5u9yy77uNTihox8>

Sunday, June 16, 2019—12:00-3:00PM

CAM Family Day—Cyanotypes

Create prints with sunlight in a hands-on activity inspired by the cyanotypes of Wu Chi-Tsung, a featured artist in *Lightscaapes: Re-envisioning the Shanshuihua*. Experience the fascinating exhibition and make your own cyanotype prints. All materials will be provided. Free admission.

Chinese American Museum
425 North Los Angeles St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012