



SEPTEMBER 2016

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Potluck

Saturday, September 17, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

*Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California
411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

The Metro Gold Line Chinatown Station
is within walking distance. Vehicles may be parked at
Bamboo Plaza, Mandarin Plaza or Blossom Plaza.

Please join us for the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
Celebration. It will be a great opportunity to enjoy
the company of fellow members and be updated
on our ongoing projects.

This is also your chance to purchase some of our
publications and merchandise which will be on sale.
Bring your friends and family for good food and
great company.

\$5. per person

or bring an entree, dessert or moon cakes,
children are free.





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Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage

On the week of July 22nd through July 27th, 2016, members and friends of the CHSSC made the annual journey to Yosemite National Park commemorating the contributions of Chinese Americans in the development of the the Sierra Nevada. This year was exceptional, as it was also the celebration of 100 years of the National Park Service. It was a well-attended outing with many new faces joining us. We thank everyone who came with us on this special trip. The Sing Peak committee has already began planning exciting things for our next trip to Yosemite. Please stay tuned in for further announcements.



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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.



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2016 Golden Spike Awards

Stewards of Our History

Thank you to our members, sponsors, friends, presenters, speakers, and Golden Spike Awards Honorees who participated in our Golden Spike Awards luncheon on Saturday, August 27, 2016. Our first daytime event in years has yielded a sold-out event with attendees in high spirits, an engaging program, and exciting raffle prizes. We recognized five “Stewards of Our History” with the Golden Spike Award. Congratulations again to our honorees: California State University, Northridge, Asian American Studies Department; Chinatown Service Center; Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee; Friends of the Chinatown Library; and UCLA Asian American Studies Center on receiving your Golden Spike Awards. We know that they will continue to enrich the community for many years to come. We would also like to thank the longtime supporters who were not able to join the celebration but remembered the Chinese Historical Society with their generous contributions. We hope everyone had a great time at our luncheon and invite you all to join us again for our 2017 Golden Spike Awards.



Representatives of the Golden Spike Award recipients and CHSSC board members. Seated: Vincent Huynh, Faith Lee, Fenton Eng, Rick Eng, Gordon Hom and Ed Lew.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

SEPTEMBER 2016



California State University, Northridge, Asian American Studies Department



Chinatown Service Center



Friends of the Chinatown Library



Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee



UCLA Asian American Studies Center





Notes on Chinese American History

A monthly column about Chinese American History by CHSSC member, William Gow.

This month I continue my discussion of Chinese American genealogical research and in particular build on my recommendation to organize your family history around the life of one individual. Once you have chosen a person in your family to research, the next step is to develop a system to organize all of the information you gather about this individual's life. I would recommend you begin this process by structuring your research around two organizing documents: first, a family tree and second, a timeline of the person's life. You can do this with a pen and paper or use one of the many websites that allow you to track this type of information online.

While family trees are an important part of doing family history, don't spend all of your time devoted to researching this document. Write down the names and relationships of the people you know. After that you should add to this family tree as you find more information, but remember family history is much more than documenting who is related to whom. In doing Chinese American genealogical research, the broader goal should be to place the life of your relative into a larger context that allows you to see both how this person was influenced by historical trends but also how he or she influenced history in his or her own decisions.

In this way, you can insure that your Chinese American genealogical research focuses on documenting the agency of your relatives within history in ways that professoriate has long declined to do. Whether or not historians choose to admit this, race, class, gender, and sexuality have always been determining factors in deciding whom historians choose to research. As members of the CHSSC, we all know that professional historians have largely ignored the individual life histories of Chinese Americans. Even within Chinese American history, the voices of some in our community have been silenced more than others. Researching the life history of one person in your family is a way to push back against the broader silencing of Asian American voices within the mainstream field of American history. Furthermore, thinking about your family history as part of the larger field of Asian American history allows you to begin to see the larger social implications inherent in researching your family history.

Because your goal should be to place your relatives life within history, the individual timeline is the document to which you should devote the majority of your time. To do this you need to understand how this person is related to local, national, and global historical trends. As a Chinese American you may want to know questions such as: in what ways did the Chinese Exclusion Act influence my family history? To what extent did anti-miscegenation laws influence whom people in your family married? What role did restrictive covenants play in where my relatives chose to live? Even as you begin placing major life events of your the timeline you are creating for your relative, you should always keep in mind how these life events relate to key events in Asian American history. Next month I will discuss a few of the key academic books that can give Chinese American genealogists and others interested in Chinese American history a grounding in the field.

William Gow is currently a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, where he is writing a history of Los Angeles Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s. He has been a CHSSC member for more than a decade. He invites feedback, suggestions, or questions about the column and his academic work. William can be reached by email at wgow@outlook.com

New Chinatown, China City, and Hollywood Cinema:

*An Oral History of Los Angeles
in the 1930s and 1940s*

Do you have memories of Los Angeles
Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s?

Have you heard stories from parents
or relatives from the period?

Would you like to have your oral history
archived at UCLA's Center for Oral History
Research?

UC Berkeley graduate student William Gow, working with faculty advisor Professor Shari Huhndorf, seeks oral history participants as part of his doctoral dissertation research in Ethnic Studies. The project seeks both US-born adults who have memories about the Chinese American community in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s, as well as other adults who have heard stories about the Chinese American community directly from those who lived in Los Angeles in these decades.

Share your stories of Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s and help preserve the history of the Chinese American community in Los Angeles.

For more information, email William Gow at williamgow@berkeley.edu or call William at 310-795-4730.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Website: www.chssc.org

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

Community Calendar

Thursday, September 15, 2016

The Chinese American Museum's Annual Historymakers Awards Gala represents the vision of pioneers, dedication of volunteers, and continuous community collaboration over the years since its inception in 1997. Prominently recognized as one of the premiere Chinese American events in Southern California, the Gala honors the achievements of extraordinary individuals or organizations that have made a significant impact or lasting contributions towards the advancement of the Chinese American community and beyond.

5:00pm Silent Auction

6:30pm Program and Dinner

The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, Los Angeles
404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071
camla.org/annual-historymakers-awards-gala

Saturday, September 17th 5:00pm

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Potluck

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is excited to host the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Potluck. Bring your favorite entree, dessert or mooncakes and share them with friends and family.

Saturday, September 17, 2016 5pm-11pm

78th Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

Central & West Plazas
943-951 N. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Saturday, September 24, 2016 10:00am - 12:30pm

Methods Used to Document and Share Our Family History
Presentation:

Early Chinese Immigration and the Transcontinental Railway

Crossing Donner Summit film by Min Zhou

Chinese Family History Group of Southern California

415 Bamboo Ln, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (near Phoenix Bakery)
(213) 628-8015

Contact cfhgsc@gmail.com

www.ChineseFamilyHistory.org

Thursday, September 29, 2016 7:00-9:00 PM

Finding Cleveland Experience

South Pasadena Public Library
1100 Oxley St, South Pasadena, CA 91030

Friday, September 30, 2016 6:00pm – 9:00pm

**OCA-Greater Los Angeles Proudly Presents
The 25th Anniversary Image Awards**

The evening will include dinner, a silent auction, and the presentation of awards. Proceeds from the event support the many volunteer activities that OCA-GLA organizes throughout the year including community service projects, voter education, and advocacy efforts on issues including hate crimes, immigration, employment, and social justice for Asian Pacific Americans.

Ocean Star Restaurant 145 N. Atlantic Blvd., 2nd Floor
Monterey Park, CA 91754

For more info contact: info@oca-gla.org or call (213) 250-9888