

NEWS'N NOTES



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com
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AUGUST 2017



Photo: Mickey H.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Summer Picnic

*Los Angeles Historic State Park
1245 N Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

Saturday, August 26, 2017
11:30 am to 6:00 pm

As summer is winding down, we invite CHSSC members, family, and friends to our annual CHSSC picnic for a day of company, activities, and of course, delicious food. We will be holding our picnic at the Los Angeles State Historic Park, to commemorate its grand opening earlier this year. The Los Angeles State Historic Park is 32-acres of open land with picnic tables, park benches, trails, manicured landscape and unobtrusive sky.

Parking is free. Staff and volunteers will be available to shuttle attendees between the parking lot to the Welcome Pavilion.

\$10 per person, children may attend for free. Food and refreshments will be provided by CHSSC. We recommend bringing blankets, umbrellas, or chairs for additional comfort.



AUGUST 2017

Painting the Sky: The Kites of Tyrus Wong with photogra- phy by Sara Jane Boyers

On Tuesday, July 25th, CHSSC members and friends take a trip to Malibu City Hall to appreciate the kites of Tyrus Wong which were on display. We would like to thank photographer Sara Jane Boyers and Kim Wong for taking the time to show our group around, and for sharing valuable context and insight on the kites and photos in this exhibit.

Thank you to everyone who participated.



Photos: Eugene W. Moy

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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.



AUGUST 2017

Archive Spotlight

The Archive Committee and the CHSSC summer interns would like to announce that the cataloging of archival materials is going very well. We are striving to create finding aids for each collection. These aids will be uploaded onto the Online Archive of California where researchers, students and scholars will learn about collections curated at CHSSC.

While processing the materials we have found that we are in need of several items for the Archives. Our Wish List follows:

- Air conditioner to maintain a constant temperature .
- Light fixture to be placed over the researcher's table.
- Shelving units
- Archival materials (boxes, folders, paper etc.)
- Instruments to transfer cassette recordings to a digital format.

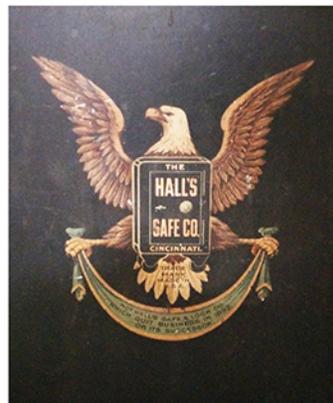
If you are interested in donating any of the items on the Wish List please contact the Archive Committee at chssc@hotmail.com. Thank you for your support.

Photo : Kristy Phan (pictured) is creating a finding aid for the Fritz family collection. The Fritz family owned the house that is now the Chinatown Heritage Center or CHSSC headquarters.



Antique Safe Donated

The CHSSC would like to thank Betty Tom Chu for her generous donation of a safe manufactured by The Hall's Safe Co. dating back to the early 20th century. We are researching the history of the safe as it appears that it was owned by the Hong Far Co. at one time.





AUGUST 2017

5th Annual Pilgrimage to Yosemite National Park

In its 5th year, our annual journey to Yosemite has fast become a tradition. We are delighted to report that this year was another successful well-attended outing. It seems that every year, our group gets a little bit bigger. It was a weekend full of educational programs, hikes, fellowship, and delicious food under a beautiful nature setting.

We hope everyone who attended had a great time, and would like to thank Helen Lee, Eugene Moy, Jack Shu, and the Sing Peak/Yosemite Trip Coordinators who made this trip possible.



Photo: Susan Dickson



Photos: Jackson Lam



Notes on Chinese American History

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

The Chinese Exclusion era began in 1882 and ended officially in 1943. It encompassed not only the original Chinese Exclusion Act 1882, but numerous other related acts directed at Chinese Americans. These included the 1892 Geary Act, the 1888 Scott Act, and the 1924 Johnson Reed Immigration Act. For more than a generation, not only were the lives of Chinese Americans defined by this legal apparatus of exclusion, but the nation itself began to change the way it understood immigrants and immigration. Indeed, the historian Erika Lee has argued that the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 transformed the United States into a gatekeeping nation. Chinese American resistance to these laws and policies also took many forms. Chinese Americans challenged the exclusion laws in court. They refused government registration for identification certificates under the Geary Act. They developed a complex system of paper sons and daughters to gain entry into the nation. One of these many acts of resistance that is often forgotten involved Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) members Y.C. Hong and Peter SooHoo. In 1926, Hong and SooHoo joined a handful of other representatives from CACA branches around the nation, to travel to Washington D.C. to lobby for a change to the 1924 Immigration Act. The 1924 Immigration Act had barred from entry into the United States any “alien ineligible for citizenship.” While Chinese laborers had long been barred by earlier Chinese Exclusion, over the prior two decades many legal Chinese American male residents of the United States had traveled to China to get married and then returned with their Chinese-born spouses. In barring all aliens ineligible for citizenship, the 1924 Immigration Act ended this legal possibility of American citizens bringing their Chinese-born wives into the nation to live with them.

Following an unsuccessful court challenge, the CACA appointed Y.C. Hong as its national campaign spokesman in an effort to lobby Congress to change the law. Born in San Francisco, Hong was then a 26-year old lawyer who had graduated from the University of Southern California in 1925. Hong was joined by Peter SooHoo as a representative of the Los Angeles lodge of CACA, along with representatives from the Portland, San Francisco, and Detroit lodges of the CACA. Together the Chinese American representatives testified before the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House of Representatives for passage of a bill amending the 1924 Immigration Act. This original bill failed, as did a second related bill.

Finally on the third attempt, in 1930, supporters of the Chinese in Congress finally passed a bill amending the 1924 Immigration Act to allow Chinese wives of American citizens who had married before 1924 to enter the country. The bill was limited in scope. It did not apply to those Chinese women who had married after 1924 nor did it apply to other aliens ineligible for citizenship, such as Japanese, Koreans, or South Asians. In the scope of the Exclusion era, the victory was certainly a limited one. At the same time, it is important to remember that these small victories by Chinese Americans and their allies were part of a larger system of sustained resistance that occurred for more than sixty years against racist and exclusionary immigration policies.

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

The Summer 2017 Yuen Fong and Lew Oy Toy Family Internship

Mr. Gareth Wang is an incoming senior at UCLA double-majoring in Geography and International Development Studies. He hopes to pursue a master’s degree in social work or urban planning in the near future. He is passionate about addressing issues of homelessness and economic underdevelopment in communities of color and is excited to learn more about Chinatown’s rich history during his time at CHSSC.





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Community Calendar

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm
**Learning from Our Past: Chinese Exclusion Act,
135 Years of History and Its Impact on Immigration**

Mr. Rick Eng will be accompanied by Mr. Wayne Ng, an immigration attorney and CACA board member. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be provided. Donations are accepted. Suggested donation: \$5.

For more information, please contact UNA-Pasadena President Dr. Wenli Jen at unapasadena@gmail.com.
Armory Center for the Arts 145 N. Raymond Ave. Pasadena, CA 91103

Saturday, August 26, 2017 - 11:30am - 6:00pm
2017 CHSSC Annual Summer Picnic

Join the CHSSC at the new Los Angeles State Historic Park for an afternoon of delicious food and activities. All members and friends are invited.
Los Angeles State Historic Park
1245 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sunday, August 27, 2017 12:00pm - 3:00pm
AYC, FCC-SoCal, & OCA-GLA Summer Picnic

Ready for another summer of fun? Join OCA-GLA, Families with Children from China (FCC), and Asian Youth Center (AYC) as we soak in the sunshine and picnic in the park with friends and family!

The picnic is free to attend and will be at Smith Park in San Gabriel. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a summer day with your favorite OCA chapter and youth-oriented community organizations! We'll have all the picnic fare and games!
Smith Park 232 W. Broadway San Gabriel, CA

Saturday, September 2, 2017 - 5:00pm to midnight
Chinatown Summer Nights

• LA's HOTTEST Restaurants • Arts & Crafts Workshops
• Craft & Vintage Market • Culinary Demonstrations
• Eating Competition • KCRW Main Stage DJs
featuring Jeremy Sole & Garth Trinidad Culinary Stage
Central Plaza 943 N. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012
This event is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 - 6:30pm
Tea Presentation with Linda Louie

Linda Louie, owner of Bana Tea Company, is a tea enthusiast and a tea educator. She will be presenting and demonstrating a tea brewing and focused tasting at CHSSC's first meeting back from the summer.

Castelar Elementary 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
Free parking- enter via College Street.
Refreshments will be served.
This event is free and open to the public.

Thursday, September 7, 2017- 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Chinatown After Dark @ Far East Plaza

Chinatown After Dark happens on the First Thursdays at Far East Plaza. The monthly event features an opportunity for innovative chefs to test out new menu items and pop-up concepts. Chinatown's regulars promote specials and other incentives. Each month's event feature talented musical acts from vocalists to DJs to instrumentals. Good vibes under clear skies in the breezy Southern California evening.
Far East Plaza 727 N Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012