



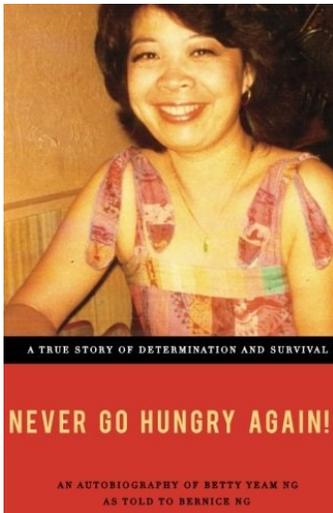
SEPTEMBER 2019

## September Monthly Meeting: *Never Go Hungry Again* Book Talk by Bernice Ng

Bernice Ng is the author of *Never Go Hungry Again*, the amazing story about a young girl and her journey to America. This story is based on real-life accounts of her mother, Betty, and her upbringing in China and eventual life in Los Angeles.

Taken from Amazon's About the Author:

*Bernice Ng is a first-time author who lives in Los Angeles, California. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics at USC and her Master's degree in Computer Science also from USC. She is the mother of four children. Recently, she retired from being a Supervising Systems Analyst in the Information Technology Section of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Now is a time of self-discovery to find out who she is and what God wants her to do with the rest of her life.*



Although she grew up in poverty in China, there is a happy ending—you'll have to read to find out! Her life stories are both devastating and inspiring. It's an easy read, and challenges you to reflect on your own life and the people you impact.

Bernice will also bring her mother, Betty, to the book talk. Betty worked at Phoenix Bakery and Phillippe's here in Chinatown.



*The author with her mother, Betty, who is the subject of her book, and will be at the September Monthly Meeting.*

CHSSC will be meeting at the CACA Lodge:

Wednesday, September 4, 2019  
6:30PM (check-in and refreshments), 7:00PM (program) to 9:00PM  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance LA Lodge (behind Phoenix Bakery)  
415 Bamboo Lane  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking available on the street (meters run until 8:00PM) and at Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza. For any questions, please contact [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org).



## Summer Outreach

We have had a busy summer! Here is what we have been up to over July and August:

**July 10**—A group of 18 enthusiastic seniors from Ventura came for a 2 hour walking tour of Chinatown led by Eugene Moy. *Photo on page 3.*

**July 26**—Membership chair Eugene Moy was invited by the Asian American Heritage Committee (AAHC) of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, to provide commentary following the screening of the documentary, *Bittersweet Roots*, at the Santa Barbara Presidio. Eugene also took the opportunity to display and talk about some of the CHSSC's publications and to pitch memberships to the packed house of 140 attendees. More on AAHC activities can be found at [www.sbthp.org/aanf](http://www.sbthp.org/aanf).

**July 27**—Board vice president Linda Bentz, an historical archaeologist, presented an informative lecture at the Chinese American Museum, *Chinese Abalone Merchants and Fishermen in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Santa Barbara*, sharing some of her years of research on the Channel Islands and adjacent coastal communities. Linda has long served as Historian for the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society. She has authored research papers, and co-authored a book with former board member William Gow, *Hidden Lives: A Century of Chinese American History in Ventura County*.



**August 1**—Professor Cherstin Lyon of Southern Oregon University (previously at Cal State San Bernardino) presented, with assistance from CHSSC member Eugene Moy, a report at one of the sessions at the 112th annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Topic *Digitizing the Chinese Exclusion Case Files at the National Archives*. The digitization project is a partnership between Cal State San Bernardino, the Save Our (Riverside) Chinatown Committee, the CHSSC, and the Perris Branch of the National Archives and Records Administration. Professor Lyon reported on some of the results to date, which has involved building a relationship with National Archives staff and establishing work protocols, working with an academic institution, and training college students in digitization techniques. This first crop of students, supported by a CSUSB grant, completed the first phase of a multi-year digitization project, which will result in a massive database that will support research. *See next month's NNN for a report on the next phase.*

*Outreach continued on following page.*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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-Americans community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



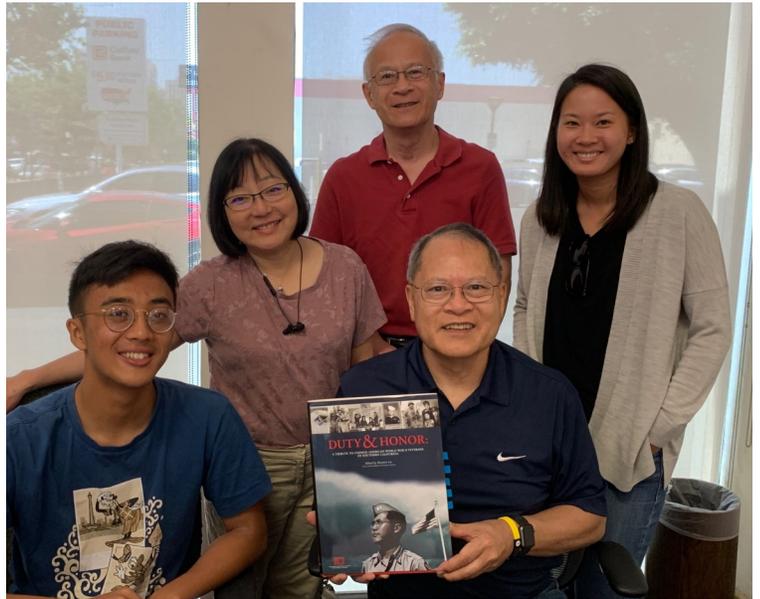
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# Efforts to Register Chinese-American WWII Veterans for the Congressional Medal of Honor

In December 2018, Congress passed a bill to honor Chinese American WWII Veterans with a Congressional Gold Medal. The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition project is a program of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) to identify, celebrate, and recognize Chinese American WWII veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII.

To inform and educate veterans and their families about the project Marjorie Lee, editor of *Duty & Honor: A Tribute to the Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California*, with support from CHSSC and C.A.C.A., spearheaded a project to provide registration assistance to Southern California Chinese American WWII military veterans, or their family representatives. Photographs and relevant service documents from the Duty and Honor Project (1998), curated in the CHSSC Archives, were used to register veterans. This registration effort was held at the Chinatown branch of Cathay Bank on Saturdays, from July 27 to August 24.

Those who register to become part of the C.A.C.A. Chinese Americans WWII Veterans Recognition Project national database registry will be qualified to receive a bronze duplicate of the Congressional Gold Medal.



Top photo, the Sue family registering a veteran: (L-R, sitting) Dylan Djoen, CACALA's high school volunteer intern, and Greg. (L-R, standing) Julie, Darryl, and Natalie. Another WWII veteran families registering at Cathay Bank with the help of Marji Lee (left).



## Outreach continued...

**August 17**—Eugene Moy presented some of the results of his local history research in a PowerPoint show, *Early Chinese of Arcadia (and Beyond)*. The program was well attended, with approximately 100 people in the audience at the Arcadia Public Library. Leading up to the talk, vice president Linda Bentz, assisted by staff Laurel Sardiñas, designed, and installed an exhibit containing a variety of items from the CHSSC's archives in the library's beautifully lit display case.



The Ventura seniors at the Thien Hau Temple in Chinatown.



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## Highs and Lows of the 2019 Pilgrimage to Sing Peak

By Tennyson Kwok

The backpacking trip had about 25 people participate. Due to some snow still affecting roads and trails, we started on a trail head 2.3 miles farther south from the planned base camp (Chain Lakes) than originally planned. It was pretty exhausting, hiking more than 8 miles with a full backpack.

For the Sing Peak hike on the second day, three different groups hiked towards Sing Peak, about 3.5 miles away. There are no trails to Sing Peak. So each group leader has to pick his own route. To get to the peak, we had to traverse three ridges, 500-1000 ft. high each, and cross snow chutes or streams between the ridges. We had to scale up and down granite/shale.

We hiked farther than the farthest peak in the picture on the top right.

The conditions were quite challenging, and many scratches and bruises resulted, and there were a few falls, but no serious injuries. Only one group made it to the top, the most experienced and energetic six people (Jack Shu's Group). The second group of seven (myself being one of them, Paul Lee the leader) stopped ½ mile and 500 feet short of the summit due to time restrictions. The third group (Yenyen's group), with the least experienced hikers, made it



about halfway where they stopped for lunch, and turned back. We started the hike at 8:15 am. The third group got back to camp by 4:30 pm. The first and second groups got back after 7 pm. Even though it was a longer hiking day than the first day, I wasn't as exhausted since I didn't have to carry a full backpack, only a lightweight day backpack.

The third day hike back to the trail head started at 8:15 am. The first group, led by Jack of course (with me in tow), got to the trail head at 1:40 pm, and the second and last group about an hour later. 13 of us met at the South Gate Brewing Company for farewell lunch/dinner. I got back to Monterey Park around 10 pm.

*See next month for a report on the rest of the Yosemite activities.*



*Pictures of the Sing Peak hiking group. To the left: both teams at the top of Sing Peak! Bottom two pictures courtesy of Jack Shu.*



Above: the entire 2019 CHSSC Yosemite Trip group. Photo courtesy of Bak Jong.

Photos below courtesy of Esther Kwan. From top left counterclockwise: National Park Service Ranger Yenyen Chan, and NPS archaeologist Scott Carpenter; the group looks over the plans for the day; a shared dinner between the visitors, Dennis Arguelles from National Parks Conservation Association with Esther Kwan; Scott Carpenter speaks to the CHSSC hikers; and happy hiker enjoying one of the trails.





SEPTEMBER 2019

## Summer Interns at the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

*We have been thrilled to host three knowledgeable, hardworking and generous interns this summer. Each intern came to us with a specific set of skills and dedication that have greatly enhanced our current work at CHSSC.*

**Katie Liu** cataloged photographs and she inventoried reports, magazines and scholarly papers in the CHSSC Library. She is a senior at University High School in Irvine. She was born and raised in southern California, a child of two hardworking first generation immigrants. Journalism and storytelling are her greatest passions, particularly writing about her identity and heritage. Katie also loves to create, whether it's through art, music, or writing and enthusiastic about history, especially Asian American history. After spending the summer at CHSSC Katie said, "I'm greatly privileged to have been able to learn more about Asian American history, and work with it. I dream of incorporating all this into my future writing to craft my own path in journalism!"



census data, City Directories and oral histories, she was able to create a detailed description of parts of Old Chinatown, circa 1933, the year much of the community started being demolished.

**Angela Li** is a UCLA intern, organizing and digitizing historical photographs and multimedia assets from the CHSSC Archives. She is a rising junior at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) pursuing a double major in Asian American Studies and Political Science with a concentration in International Relations. At the intersection of her two majors, she is working on research projects that explore how Asian Americans interact with the legal system. Last summer, she worked with the Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Washington D.C. as a Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL) research scholar to publish three blogposts that detail the impact of technology or lack thereof on Asian American communities. Currently, as the Social and Cultural Coordinator for the Asian Pacific Coalition, Angela is working to promote cultural exchange among the UCLA student population. She is excited to connect with members of the Los Angeles community, outside of the classroom.



**Anusha Mather** is a rising senior at Harvard-Westlake. She came to us through the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West and the Los Angeles Service Academy. Designed as a supplement to the regular school year, the Los Angeles Service Academy provides an intensive introduction to the infrastructure and institutions of greater Los Angeles for high-school juniors who have expressed an interest in public, civic, and civil service. Anusha's work at CHSSC was centered on research pertaining to the Old Los Angeles Chinatown. By using historical photographs,



*Pictured from top to bottom: Katie Liu, Anusha Mather, and Angela Li, the interns at CHSSC this summer.*



# MILTON QUON



August 22, 1913—June 18, 2019



*This past summer, Milton Quon passed away at the age of 105. He was a prolific animator for Walt Disney, working on Fantasia and Dumbo. In 2013, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California named him an honoree of the Golden Spike Awards. Here is a reprint of his biography as written in the 2013 Golden Spike Award program:*

Milton Quon was born on August 22, 1913 in Los Angeles, California to Ng Quan Ying and Wong Shee Quon. He was the eldest and only son, with seven sisters. His parents were from Canton, China and settled in Los Angeles, where his father ran George Quon Produce. His family was part of Los Angeles' bustling Chinese community centered around the City Market at Ninth and San Pedro streets.

As a child, Quon and his father often traveled to Old Chinatown where he later played at Apablaza Street playground. Near home, he and his family attended and were active members of the Chinese Congregational Church and Chinese language school at Ninth and San Pedro streets. His interest in playing tennis led him to co-found the Los Angeles

Chinese Tennis Club with Peter SooHoo Sr., Ruth Kim, and Ed Lee.

After graduating from Polytechnic High School in 1932, Quon attended Frank Wiggins Trade School (now Los Angeles Trade Technical College) and Los Angeles Junior College where he earned his Associate of Arts degree. In 1936, he won a scholarship to Chouinard Art Institute (now California Institute of the Arts), and graduated from Chouinard in 1939.

As an artist, Quon did freelance art and design work for restaurants in New Chinatown, including Man Jen Low, Soochow Restaurant, and Grandview Gardens. His outdoor lantern sign for Grandview Gardens is now a historic landmark in Chinatown's Central Plaza.

In 1939, Quon was hired at Walt Disney Studios to work on the film *Fantasia*. Quon was the third Chinese American to work at Walt Disney Studios, joining Cy Young and Tyrus Wong. From 1939 to 1942, Quon worked on the Disney films *Fantasia* and *Dumbo*. During World War II, he supported the war effort by working for Douglas Aircraft, heading a team of artists and animators who illustrated repair manuals and materials for their bombers and transports.

In 1944, Quon married Peggy Wong of Stockton, California, and would have four children: Michael, Jeffrey, Timothy, and Sherrill. After World War II, Quon returned to Walt Disney Studios in 1946, heading their Publicity/Promotions Department for three years, whose projects included the films *Song of the South*, and *Make Mine Music*.

From 1951 to 1963, Quon became the first Chinese American art director at a national, now global advertising agency BBDO, with offices in over 80 countries. In 1964, Quon joined the Sealright Company, a packaging firm as the Senior Design Artist, and worked there until his retirement in 1980. Quon also was a part time instructor of drawing, painting, and advertising courses at Los Angeles Trade Technical College from 1974 to 1989.

*All are invited to come together for a **Celebration of Life** to hear and share stories about Milton on **Saturday, September 21, 2019** at 2:00PM at the Torrance First Presbyterian Church, 1880 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance, CA 90501. Underground parking on premises.*



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org)  
Website: [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

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## Community Calendar

**Saturday, September 7, 2019, 11:00AM-Sunday, September 8, 2019, 9:00PM**

### **Moon Festival Spectacular**

The Moon Festival Spectacular at the world famous Santa Anita Park is a two-day long celebration of traditional Chinese and Asian heritage that includes arts, music, food, and many other activities.

Santa Anita Park  
285 Huntington Dr.  
Arcadia, CA 91007

**Saturday, September 7, 2019-Sunday, September 29, 2019**

### ***The Chinese Lady* by Lloyd Suh**

This September, Artists at Play is presenting the Los Angeles premiere of [\*The Chinese Lady\*](#). Inspired by the true story of America's first female Chinese immigrant, THE CHINESE LADY is a dark, poetic, yet whimsical portrait of America through the eyes of a young Chinese woman.

\*CHSSC is a community partner, so members qualify for a discounted price. For more information, contact us at [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org).

Greenway Court Theatre  
544 Fairfax Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

**Saturday, September 14, 2019—3:30PM-11:30PM**

### **6th Annual Rosemead Moon Festival**

This FREE ADMISSION night festival features a night market full of delicious Asian street food & drinks as well as games and entertainment from over 120 vendors! We will close down Valley Blvd. (from Walnut Grove Ave. to Ivar Ave.) for this family friendly and multi-cultural festival.

Valley Blvd. (between Ivar Ave. to Walnut Grove Ave.)  
Rosemead, CA 91770

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

### **The 23rd Annual Historymakers Award Gala presented by CAM**

#### **Linking Our Lives, Sharing Our Histories**

The Chinese American Museum proudly announces that five women and one charitable organization have been chosen for recognition during the 23rd annual Historymakers Awards Gala. The honorees are: Suellen Cheng, Elizabeth Yang, Esq., Linda Moy, Linda Liu Sun, Morning Light Foundation, and Doré Hall Wong. Visit [camla.org](http://camla.org) for more information on the event and to RSVP.

The Bonaventure Hotel & Suites  
404 S. Figueroa St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9:00AM-12:00PM**

### **Tea Workshop: Chinese White Tea**

Join Linda Louie from Bana Tea Company and Angie Lee from 1001 Plateaus for a focused tasting and discussion of Chinese white tea, its history, and processing.

The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Rd.  
San Marino, CA 91108

**Saturday, September 21, 2019; 10:00AM-12:00PM**

### **Children's Workshop: Chinese Lanterns**

Create your own paper lantern using traditional Chinese brush painting techniques in this fun workshop. Find tickets here: [brownpapertickets.com/event/4314513](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/4314513).

The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens (address above)