



Memorial wall adjacent to the historic CHSSC shrine.

Ch'ing Ming Festival

*hosted by the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California*

Saturday, April 3, 2010, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights
204 North Evergreen Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033

*Enter from Evergreen Avenue and proceed
toward the east end, where the Chinese Shrine is.
The festival free and open to the public.
A light lunch will be served.*

The Ch'ing Ming festival is a traditional Chinese holiday that goes back several centuries. Families gather to honor their ancestors by sweeping their graves and making offerings such as food and paper money. It was believed that the ancestors' spirits have to be at peace and that the spirits of those who are not taken care of could cause trouble in the mortal world.

At this year's festival, there will be a traditional Taoist ceremony to honor all those at the cemetery. Also, the Taoist master will set up several altars, including an altar to honor the graves that were unearthed during the Gold Line excavation (a memorial wall dedicated in the memory of these people is pictured above).

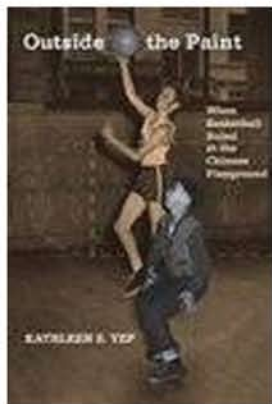
The second part of the festival will feature the tradition of "grave sweeping." Participants will walk over to the grave of Donaldina Cameron and help clean her plot. Ms. Cameron is credited with the rescuing of thousands of Asian women, who were either being held as domestic slaves and prostitutes back in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Along with tipping off police of illegal activities and sometimes going on police raids herself, she also maintained a women's shelter, where women could live and learn basic skills.

The grandchildren of people who knew Ms. Cameron personally will share the stories their grandparents told them about her during the grave sweeping. Ms. Cameron was very close to her sisters and the burial plot they are all buried in is one of her sister's husband's family's plot.



APRIL 2010

April program: Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.



*Castelar Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
Enter on College Avenue
Between Hill & Yale Streets
The public is invited
(free parking)*

**Kathleen Yep will speak about
her book, "Outside the Paint:
When Basketball Ruled at the
Chinese Playground,"**

which examines how working-class Chinese American women and men utilized basketball to mediate poverty, patriarchy, heteronormativity and racial segregation.

Prof. Yep is an associate professor of Asian American Studies at Pitzer College and the chair of the Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies at the Claremont Colleges. Her research and teaching interests include cultural politics, feminist/antiracist pedagogies, social documentation and social movements.

As a child, Yep had big dreams of becoming the first female basketball player in the National Basketball Association. She played basketball with her brother and her grandparents, who both would share stories of the basketball games at San Francisco's Chinatown's segregated playground. Her grandmother Franche Yep was one of the Mei Wahs, a Chinese American women's basketball team formed in the 1930s.

Jeremy Schaap, New York Times best-selling author of "*Cinderella Man: James J. Braddock, Max Baer and the Greatest Upset in Boxing History*," said of Yep's book, "Prodigiously researched and vividly realized, '*Outside the Paint*' tells a story previously all but unknown. Kathleen Yep has made an important contribution to the scholarship of the city game."

Prof. Yep's other work has published in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*, the *Journal of Asian American Studies* and the *Asian American Policy Review*. She also co-authored "*Dragon's Child: The Story of Angel Island*" (HarperCollins, 2008), which was named one of New York Public Library's "Top 100 Books to Read and Share in 2008" and a Cooperative Book Center Choice for 2009.

As Pitzer's scholar-in-residence, Prof. Yep is currently researching educators who teach as a form of social justice organizing. Funded by the Carnegie Foundation and California Campus Compact, Yep was awarded a two-year faculty fellowship in the "Service Learning for Political Engagement Program." In addition, the Bonner Foundation and Project Pericles have funded her to integrate community-based learning and social action research in her teaching. Raised in Northern California, Professor Yep received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a University of California President's Post-Doctoral Fellow.

Board of Directors

Officers

Gordon Hom, President
Susan Dickson, Vice President
Mei T. Ong, VP for Programs
Winifred Lew, Secretary
Albert Chang, MD, Membership Sec.
Dennis Lee, C.P.A., Treasurer

Members at Large

Jean G. Chan
Kenneth L. Chan
Jenny Cho
Irvin Lai
Henry Leong
Richard Liu
Donald Loo
Eugene Moy
Diane Poon
Francine Redada
William Tong

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.



Dr. William Y. Fong



*Specialist in Chest
Diseases; Physician
to the Elderly and
Asian Communities*

Dr. William Yan Fong—a pioneer Chinese-American physician and medical visionary—passed away on March 8, 2010 at the age of 86 in his home town of Sacramento, California. During a storied career, Dr. Fong was an expert in lung and chest diseases and made significant contributions to availability and quality of medical care in the Sacramento area. A physician with a strong sense of social responsibility, he contributed to the availability of quality care in the Asian American community.

Dr. Fong had a long association with the Asian Community Nursing Home in Sacramento. When a new facility opened, Dr. Fong became the Home's medical director in 1989. Under his compassionate, strong leadership, the facility's quality of care and administrative practices benefited greatly.

William Fong grew up in Sacramento in the early twentieth century, the third of 10 children whose family owned a grocery store where each child worked. William became the store's bookkeeper at a young age, learning a cooperative spirit to make the store a success and permit each child to get an education. He started his higher education at Sacramento Junior College and, in 1943, transferred to the University of California at Berkeley. Upon graduation from Berkeley, he began the accelerated, Wartime Medical Education Program at the University of California at San Francisco Medical School. Despite a grueling schedule, he served as president of the campus Chinese Student Club and was a member of Pi Alpha Phi, an all-Chinese fraternity.

After medical school, Dr. Fong served internships and residencies in San Francisco, St. Louis and New York City.

He had a particular interest in chest and infectious diseases and spent time in county facilities treating disadvantaged tuberculosis patients. Dr. Fong recalled, "Tuberculosis was rampant in Asian communities at that time and many Asians were hospitalized in sanitariums." This was a time when new antibiotics were being introduced to fight tuberculosis, replacing discredited treatments such as "resting the lungs" and high fat diets.

Upon completing a three-year internal medicine residency at St. Louis City Hospital of Washington University, he accepted the "professional, life-changing opportunity" to study pulmonary medicine (lung disease) at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. He specialized in chest diseases at the Veterans Hospital in West Haven, Connecticut, before joining the United States Air Force in 1955. Honorably discharged as a captain two years later, and now a husband and father, Dr. Fong returned to Sacramento to found an internal medicine and pulmonary disease practice, Sacramento Internal Medicine Group, and became associated with the city's Midtown Internal Medicine Group.

Dr. Fong was one of the first Chinese-American graduates of the UC San Francisco Medical School, and became the first person of Chinese descent to be president of the local medical society in Sacramento as well as the city's hospital system.

In the 1980s, Dr. Fong served on a California Medical Association committee on minority admission to medical schools.

Dr. Fong has been formally recognized by numerous health associations and medical foundations. Twice, he received the Sacramento Asian Physician's Society's Outstanding Achievement Award, and in 1990 was honored for his legacy of outstanding service by the Sacramento Asian Community Center. In 2003, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution honoring Dr. Fong and his wife Ruby as Outstanding and Pioneering Chinese Americans in the Health Care Fields.

The Fongs settled in Sacramento in 1955 and raised a family of seven boys and one girl, each of whom graduated college and has a professional career in business, science, education or law. Dr. Fong humorously remarked what gives him the most pride is "having raised eight kids . . . and no one is in jail . . . I am so proud of them."

Upon his passing, a longtime neighbor said of Dr. Fong: "He was a stellar role model and will be sorely missed."

An extended profile of Dr. William Y. Fong's life and career appears in CHSSC's book, Portraits of Pride (volume one).



Icy Smith

The horrors of the Cambodian genocide is difficult for any adult to fully grasp, much less for a fourth grader. But Icy Smith took on the challenge and wrote "A Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian Genocide," which follows the genocide through the eyes of a nine-year-old boy, Nat. The title refers to the meager portions of food -- literally, a half spoon of rice a day -- rationed at the work camps.

"I hope that it will not take three decades to learn about the Cambodian genocide," Icy said, at the Society's March evening program at Castelar School. She pointed out that it wasn't until the 70s that the history of the Holocaust was implemented in mainstream education.

The book is structured so that both young children and adults can learn about the "killing fields" of Cambodia. The first half of the book is the story of Nat and his friend Malis trying to survive in the work camp and find their parents. The second half features author's notes and photos of the genocide, which adults can read to learn more deeply about the political turmoil and the mass murders, and potentially supplement Nat's story as they read with their children or students.

The book is based on several stories of survivors; the main character, in particular, is based on a Chinese-Cambodian friend.

"I believe I did justice for my friend and other survivors," she said.

It also happened that the illustrator of the book, Sopaul Nhem, has close and first-hand knowledge of the subject: his father is a survivor of the genocide. Icy said she believes that Sopaul's intimate familiarity with the history lent for more authentic and sensitive illustrations.

Icy also talked about taking another challenging assignment -- the story of her grandmother, who was a comfort woman during World War II. She's unsure how to proceed with it, but she believes it is a story that should be told.



After an early career as a corporate communications professional specializing in the Asian American market, Icy embarked in a new direction as an independent writer and publisher. Her earlier works, "The Lonely Queue: The Forgotten History of the Chinese Americans in Los Angeles" and "Mei Ling in China City," have previously been presented to the CHSSC.

Icy and her husband Michael run East West Discovery Press, which has published all of her original work. Most of their catalog is oriented toward the youth market, with a multicultural focus. Several of the books are also bilingual; the press features works in 40-plus languages. Titles include "Jadyn and the Magic Bubble: I Met Gandhi" by Brigitte Benchimol, "Being Half and Half" by Lensey Namioka and "Diwayen, Before the Spanish Came" by Augie Rivera.

Icy says that the East West Discovery Press gives a diverse population of children "an opportunity to see themselves in books" and "a window into the lives of others."

In recent years, Icy has also been the publisher of the Society's Gum Saan Journal, responsible for its layout, design, and printing.

Timothy Scot Leung

The President and Board of Directors of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California expresses its greatest sympathy to LP Leung and his family on the loss of their son, Timothy Scot Leung. The Leungs are longtime members and supporters of the CHSSC and LP is Director and Editor in Chief of the Portraits of Pride II project.



APRIL 2010

Acknowledgements

Winnie Lew, Lupe Chee and Margie & Al Lew provided snacks for the March monthly meeting.

Icy Smith donated part of the proceeds from her book sales at the March monthly meeting, where she was the featured speaker.

Katharine Saiman Chow made a donation in memory of Steve Leong.

Helen & Gary Fong made a donation in memory of King Wong.

Fenton Eng, Gilbert Hom, Gordon Hom, O. C. Lee, Liz Wong, Eugene Moy, Susan Sing, William Tong and Elizabeth Tong helped clean up the Chinese shrine at Evergreen Cemetery in the rain, in preparation for MTA's March 8 Memorial Wall dedication.

Susan Dickson and Irvin Lai were a key part of the Memorial Wall dedication. Both represented the Chinese community, along with Daisy Ma of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, on an ad hoc subcommittee that advised the MTA on the design and location of the wall and on the disposition of the archaeological artifacts and remains that were dislodged by Gold Line construction.



Dedication plaque at the CSSC shrine.



Memorial wall dedication on March 8, 2010. Pictured left to right: Angie Ma Wong, Gilbert Hom, Tim & Annie Siu, Gordon Hom, Mei T. Ong, Irvin Lai, Susan Dickson, Frieda & Allen Wong, William Tong, Edith & George Sheu, Suellen Cheng. Photo by O.C. Lee

Saturday, April 3, 2010 11:00 A.M to 1:00 am
Ch'ing Ming, Viewing of the new Evergreen Wall Memorial and Honoring Donaldina Cameran - Lunch will be provided - Free
Evergreen Cemetery 1st Street and Lorena St .
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
<http://www.chssc.org>

Saturday, April 3, 2010 3:00 P.M. - Free
JUST LIKE REALLY Reading and imagery from recent memoir of the notable Actress and Playwright Cherylene Lee. A memoir of her days as a childhood performer in Hollywood
Torrance Public Library 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. www.ci.torrance.ca.us

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 7:00 pm
An Evening with Kathleen S. Yep- Free
She wrote Outside the Paint - The experiences of Chinese American basketball players in San Francisco in the 1930s-40s.
Castelar Elementary School - Enter on College (Yale & Hill)
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California www.chssc.org

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 4:00 - 6:00pm - Free
Lucie Cheng's Memorial
by UCLA Asian American Studies Center
RSVPs should be sent to Ann Chau (310-825-2974
www.aasc.ucla.edu
www.aasc.ucla.edu/archives/luciecheng2010memorial.asp

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 7:00 pm - Free
"UNBOUND SPIRIT: Letters of Flora Belle Jan" Fleur Yano will talk, sign and have available copies. Writings are based on letters to and from Ludmelia Holstein during WWII in China.
Cerritos Library 18025 Bloomfield Ave 90703
http://menu.ci.cerritos.ca.us/calendar/cl_calendar.htm

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 7:00 pm
English Only Nakano Theatre at Torrance Cultural Arts Center
This comedic dramatization of the events is told from the viewpoint of Scarlett Wong, a fictional 16-year old, Chinese-American girl in Monterey Park
Nakano Theatre at Torrance Cultural Arts Center
http://torrancelive.us/index_files/Page995.htm

Sunday May 2, 2010 6:00 P.M.
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
"Honoring Our Community Service Heroes"
Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd. , Monterey Park
www.chssc.org/2010dinnerflyer.pdf

March 28 to July 25 2010
Secrets of the Silk Road - Landmark exhibition featuring more than 150 objects relating to all aspects of the people and cultures of the Silk Road.
Bowers Museum
2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana , California 92706
www.bowers.org/index.php/art/exhibitions_details/35



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Fax: 323-221-4162
Email: chssc@hotmail.com Web: www.chssc.org

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