

DECEMBER 2012

Annual Christmas Potluck

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

*Castelar Elementary School
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

Free parking - enter via College Street
Bring your favorite dish or \$5. for admission,
children are free.



Bring your whole family, especially the little ones
(A special Christmas guest is expected to visit)

Sing Christmas carols.

Catch up with fellow members and friends.

Don't forget to purchase Christmas gifts
from our selection of fine publications

and of course, renew your

2013 CHSSC membership.





DECEMBER 2012



BRUSHSTROKES IN HOLLYWOOD

a documentary film
by Pamela Tom

The Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California is proud to be
an official community outreach partner
of the documentary film,

Tyrus Wong: Brushstrokes in Hollywood.

The film is the first in-depth portrait
of 102-year old pioneering
Chinese American painter,
Hollywood illustrator, kite builder and
Disney legend, **Tyrus Wong**.

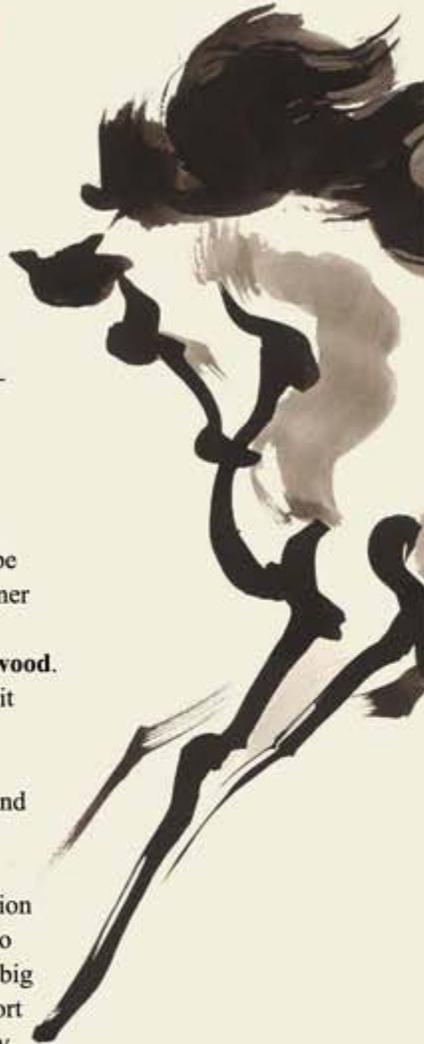
The film is currently in post-production
and the producers need your help to
complete the film and bring it to the big
screen! Please join this national effort
in telling Tyrus's inspiring story by
visiting the film's Kickstarter page.

Visit **KICKSTARTER** and search for "Tyrus Wong".
Rewards for donating include a signed piece of artwork by Tyrus Wong.

You can also find more information about this remarkable project at:
www.TyrusWongTheMovie.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
www.facebook.com/BrushstrokesInHollywood
[@TyrusWongTheMovie](https://twitter.com/TyrusWongTheMovie)

Contact us at:
TyrusTheMovie@yahoo.com
323.620.1228



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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 communi-
cate 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.



DECEMBER 2012

The CHSSC Memorial Gate & Entry

In honor of the recent loss of many prominent Society members, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is accepting donations to build a memorial gate and entryway at the Society's headquarters at 411 & 415 Bernard Street. A custom designed iron gate will be erected along with the repaving of the entryway.

Donations can be made to: CHSSC 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or call for additional information (323) 222-0856.



In Memoriam

Fanny Au

Fanny Au was born over 93 years ago in Suisun, CA on January 28, 1919. She was the youngest and only daughter. At 8 years old she was sent back to Skek Ki in Canton, China for school. Before World War II, she returned to the United States on May 5, 1938.

She married Henry Au in San Francisco on June 29, 1941 and settled in Los Angeles. She traveled the world with her family. Both she and her husband Henry had a good hearts and treated people generously with time and friendship. Fanny is survived by her 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

May Lai Der

May was born on January 25, 1925, in Long Beach, CA. Married to Albert in 1950. They remained devoted to each other for over 62 years. She was a loving and caring mother. May was faithful Christian and longtime member of San Gabriel Presbyterian Church. Survived by her 2 sisters, Helen and Ruth, loving husband Albert, 5 children, Allan, Channing, Elaine, Irene, and Loid. 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

James Eugene Soo Hoo

James Eugene Soo Hoo was born on September 11, 1932, in Santa Barbara, CA. He graduated from Polytechnic High School in L.A. and earned his B.S. from the University of California, Santa Barbara. During the Korean War, Jim served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in San Diego, CA.

On June 24, 1961, Jim married Sylvia Wong in Fresno, CA. They had three children: Kristin, Kurt and Eric. The family resided in Mount Washington. His children and grandchildren (Megan, Melissa, Emma, Claire, Jason, Ryan, Jayden, and Emily) will forever have happy memories of their summer trips to Oxnard and many family dinners.

Jim was a dedicated teacher. He retired from elementary school teaching in 1991 from the Montebello Unified School District, after serving for 35 years. He was presently teaching adult education for 51 years in MUSD.

If one were to describe Jim with a few select words, those words would be: gentlemanly, honorable, trustworthy, dependable, patient, kind, faithful, loyal, and humorous.

Please Renew
Your Membership Now!



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Membership

Silver

Monthly newsletter.
Free *Gum Saan Journal*.
Discount on field trips to historical sites.
Discount on publications and products.
Admission to Heritage Center during
non-public hours (call in advance)

100 x 100 Club

All benefits of Silver membership.
Invitation for 2 to special events.

Diamond

All benefits of 100 x 100 Club membership.
2 complimentary tickets to Annual Gala Dinner.

Student/Senior (60+)

All benefits of Silver membership.

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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.

New Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Visa/MC # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Silver \$ 57.

100 x 100 Club \$ 100.

Diamond \$ 300.

Student or Senior (60+) \$ 32.

Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856

Email: chssc@hotmail.com

Website: www.chssc.org

Make checks payable to CHSSC

We are a 501(c)3
non-profit organization,
tax ID: 95-3155357

I am interested in helping with:

Programs

Publications

Research

Publicity

Fundraising

Other _____



DECEMBER 2012

Wilbur K. Woo

*A Leader of L.A.'s Chinese Community
1915 - 2012*



Wilbur Kuotung Woo, my father, passed away Monday night at age 96. Our family is sad that much of his energy over the past few weeks was spent fighting the effects of some minor strokes and pneumonia. But beyond his recent weeks in the hospital, Dad enjoyed a long, rich life. He was very much a man of his times.

Dad was born in Niu Mao Ling ("Cow's Hair Hill"), a small village in Guangdong Province's

Kaiping district (one of the main generators of early Chinese immigrants to the U.S.), about a 90-minute drive into the countryside from Guangzhou. He first came to the U.S. at age 5, spending a few weeks in detention at Angel Island, and then arrived in Los Angeles where our Uncle Joe Woo had an asparagus farm in the suburb which is now known as Encino.

Dad's parents sent him back to Guangzhou, where he spent most of his youth. The boys' school which Dad attended in Guangzhou, Pui Do, was located across the street from a girls' school, Pui Ching, whose student body included Beth Lou, a pretty girl from Stockton, California. Fate (and a shared interest in interscholastic baseball) brought Wilbur and Beth together. They married in Hong Kong, where my older sisters Pat and Janice were born.

For his first two years of college, Dad attended Lingnan College, one of the venerable institutions of higher education in China founded by Western missionaries. A few years ago, I had the privilege of accompanying Dad to visit the old Lingnan campus in Guangzhou, now the business school of Sun Yat-Sen University.

Then Dad came back to the U.S. to attend UCLA. Like many other families during the war years, our family was divided by thousands of miles, with Dad and Grandpa Woo living in Los Angeles and the brave women of our family, Mom, Grandma Woo, and my sisters Pat and Janice living in Hong Kong and Guangzhou and eventually seeking refuge from the Japanese invaders by going back to Dad's home village. Years passed with no contact between Dad and Mom.

After the end of the war, the family was re-united in Los Angeles. Like many other immigrants, Grandpa Woo and Dad figured out that the food industry represented opportunity for newcomers who could build upon a network of ethnic producers and consumers, so they started Chungking Produce Company (named after the wartime capital of China) which became a successful wholesale produce company in the City Market south of downtown Los Angeles.

Dad would go to work around midnight or 1 or 2 in the morning in order to put in a full day at the produce market. But the market's daily closing time around 9 am meant that there were all these other hours of the day when Dad could apply his incredible endurance, work ethic, and social skills in other arenas.

In 1962, at a time when many Chinese Americans could not get loans from existing banks, Dad was invited to become vice president of Cathay Bank. Then a tiny storefront operation on North Broadway in Chinatown, Cathay Bank was the first bank started by Chinese Americans and eventually became one of the largest independent financial institutions in Los Angeles County.

Dad also discovered a talent for community leadership. Because he was one of the few community leaders in Chinatown who was equally fluent in English and Chinese and was equally comfortable visiting the Chinatown family associations or walking the halls of power in downtown L.A. or Washington, DC, Dad was a unique bridge between mainstream America and a growing immigrant community which historically had been excluded from the mainstream.

One of Dad's leadership roles was the presidency of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in the early 1960s. As a boy, I remember hearing his stories about barnstorming around the country visiting CACA lodges in Salinas, Portland, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Houston. Perhaps his proudest achievement as CACA president was lobbying for the historic changes in US immigration policy in 1965 which removed legal barriers limiting immigration from China and Taiwan.

When I was growing up, I used to think that it was completely normal for a father to tell his family around the dinner table about his exciting meetings in Washington, DC, with Senator Hiram Fong or Senator Ted Kennedy to discuss strategy on an immigration bill.

Back in those days, Dad and I would have disagreements about the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, Republicans versus Democrats, or the value of student demonstrations versus "working in the system." But perhaps those family dinner table conversations influenced my later choice of public service as an honorable profession.

Dad, thank you.

Michael

Wilbur Woo is survived by Beth, his wife of nearly 75 years; three daughters, Pat, Elaine and Pam; son Mike; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His daughter Janice died in 2008. He was a prominent contributor and member of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 6:30 \$5.00

Annual CHSSC Christmas Potluck

Bring your favorite dish to share and sing Christmas carols. Catch up with fellow members and friends. Don't forget to purchase Christmas gifts from our selection of fine publications and of course, renew your 2013 CHSSC membership. Castelar Elementary School 840 Yale St. Los Angeles, CA 90012
Free Parking – enter via College Street
www.chssc.org www.facebook.com/groups/chssc
chssc.org.blogspot.com

Thursday, December 6, 2012 · 6:00pm-9:00pm

Annual APA Community Holiday Toy Drive & Reception

Please join APA community organizations as we come together to celebrate the holidays and serve our communities through the gift of toys. Bring an unwrapped toy valued at \$20 or more or minimum donation of \$20. Food, drinks, and entertainment at the event are included with admission.
Japanese American National Museum
100 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

December 14, 2012 through January 5, 2014

The Art of Continuity: Revering our Elders

In cultures informed by Confucian values, worship of family ancestors has generated countless objects for use in prescribed rituals. The exhibition includes paintings and sculpture from East Asia and the Pacific Islands, including China, Korea and Papua New Guinea.
Pacific Asia Museum,
46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101 626-449-2742

Thursday, December 13, 2012 7:00pm-8:00pm

Opening Reception of a new permanent exhibition at the Chinese American Museum

Origins: The Birth and Rise of Chinese American Communities in Los Angeles creates a context for understanding Historic Chinatown, new Chinatown, and Monterey Park. Origins Online, an interactive Web site (origins.camla.org), facilitates further exploration and curation of emerging new communities in the San Gabriel Valley and other Los Angeles locales. Origins marks the first addition to CAM's permanent galleries since the Museum opened in 2003.
Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 485-0428 www.camla.org

Friday, December 28

Free Fourth Friday

Admission to Pacific Asia Museum is free to all visitors on the fourth Friday of each month.
46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101 626-449-2742

Save The Date

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
2013 Golden Spike Awards
Empress Pavillion Restaurant
988 N Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012