

NOVEMBER 2012

Linking Lives & Legacies

Wednesday, November 7, 2012
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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

*Free parking - enter via College Street.
The event is free to the public.
Refreshments will be served.*



Branches of family trees are grown
from the roots of our cultures.

Newcomers to America bring with them many
facets and richness of our ancestries from around
the globe. A Personal and Family History is much
more than a genealogy of names, dates, and places.
It is a document of your culture and family traditions
in words and images that create a colorful and vivid
portrait for your future generations.

This inter-active presentation is designed to
encourage you to begin or continue the stories
of your family's journey.

*Ordinary lives make extraordinary stories.
That is what Personal History is all about.*

Lynne Choy Uyeda-Gin *Personal & Family Historian*





NOVEMBER 2012

Castelar Elementary School celebrated 130 years (1882-2012)

On October 3, 2012, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California hosted a very well attended birthday party/reunion at Castelar Elementary. The event featured remembrances from a panel of Castelar alumni, a show of old photos, sharing of memories during an open mike period, meeting old friends and making new ones.



Photos by Susie Ling

Board of Directors

Officers

Susan Dickson, President
Eugene W. Moy, Vice President
Gordon Hom, VP for Programs
Donald Loo, Secretary
Kelly Fong, Membership Sec.
Richard Liu, Treasurer

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Pedro Chan
Su Chen
Jenny Cho
John Jung
Clement Lai
Winifred Lew
Steven Ng
Mei T. Ong
Francine Redada
William Yuen

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.



NOVEMBER 2012

From China to Catalina: (Charlie) Lim Ying and the Bannings

By Ben Lim

Saturday, November 3, 2012, 10:00am

In the 1880 US Census, Charlie (Lim Ying) was listed as residing at the Banning home and his occupation was indicated as "Servant". Various Chinese, including the two standing next to the carriage in the above image, worked for the Banning family. Later documents indicate that Lim Ying resided and worked as lead chef at the Hotel Metropole on Catalina Island, which had been developed by Phineas Banning's three sons. Our speaker, Ben Lim is a retired chemist from Southern California who has been researching the journeys of Lim Ying, his great-great-grandfather. From his home village in Guangdong Province to heading the food operation at a bustling resort hotel in America, Mr. Lim will show many images and documents that will illustrate the life of one hard-working and enterprising California pioneer who worked for another California pioneer.

Following the talk, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, which organized this presentation, will go on a museum tour and have an informal fellowship and conversation with Mr. Lim at a no-host lunch at a nearby, highly-rated Chinese buffet restaurant. Please call to RSVP ahead of time so that the Museum can provide an adequate number of docents. Members are encouraged to carpool; the CHSSC office can help organize if you need a ride or would like to drive.

The Banning Museum
401 East "M" Street
Wilmington, CA 90744

(310) 548-2005

for more information and tour reservation

www.thebanningmuseum.org

FREE for Friends of Banning Museum

Members & children under 12

\$5.00 for non-members (includes optional 1 hour tour of
Banning Residence Museum at 11:30 am, following talk;
call at above number for tour reservation)

*The Banning Museum is a facility of the City of Los Angeles,
Department of Recreation & Parks & is operated in cooperation
with the Friends of Banning Museum. Friends of Banning Museum
is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "Preserve
History, Promote Education & Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."*





IN MEMORIAM

Randall Leon Bloch

March 21, 1951 - September 21, 2012

Randy Bloch, long-time friend and colleague, passed on September 21, 2012 at his home in South Carolina after a period of illness. He is survived by his wife Maureen Bloch, daughter and son-in-law Kate and Nels Setterlund, granddaughter Eden, mother-in-law Alice Benelli, two sisters, Susan Bloch and Leslie Paonessa, and stepmother Marian Bloch.

Randy joined the CHSSC more than 20 years ago, around the time that we learned about deteriorating condition of the 19th Century Chinese Cemetery Shrine located at the east end of Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights. He had had a strong interest in people, community justice, and history, and had been working with lawyers at the Western Center for Law and Poverty in their community advocacy work. Randy immediately stepped into a leadership role, organizing a diverse CHSSC team that included a lawyer, anthropologist, engineer, businessman, and a few community activists, and developing a preservation plan for the Shrine. Within a short time, Randy compiled historic documentation and prepared applications for historic designation and restoration grants. The Shrine was designated a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, funds were raised to acquire the site, an architect and contractor were hired to perform the restoration. The project received the 1998 Governor's Historic Preservation Award, primarily due to Randy's leadership.

Randy was elected to the CHSSC board of directors and served three terms in various capacities. Because of his skills and the ability to articulate the vision of the CHSSC, Randy was hired as the Administrator for the CHSSC in 2002 and served a number of years before he moved east with wife Maureen.

In the meantime, and even after he moved, Randy stayed committed to the CHSSC and contributed to many of our publications: producing the monthly News 'n Notes; and research, writing, and editorial assistance for *Bridging The Centuries* (2001), *Portraits of Pride I* (2004), and *Portraits of Pride II* (2011).

On a personal level, Randy was a strong and dedicated member, along with his family, of Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist organization dedicated to individual happiness and world peace through the support and care of each practitioner. He was passionate about jazz, classical music, nature and wildlife, and, without question, writing and wordplay, all of which was shared by friends and family at a memorial program held on October 6 at the SGI-USA Community Center in North Hills. We will greatly miss his sense of humor, his kind heart, and his love and concern for family and all of us.



Randy Bloch at the 19th century Chinese Cemetery Shrine Restoration Groundbreaking Ceremony, January 12, 1995

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California acknowledges and appreciates the generosity of the following individuals

Pedro & Pek Chan
Kenneth Chan & Miranda Hoh
Su Chen
Shirley Chu & Dean Ng
Susan Dickson

Kay Fong
John & Phyllis Jung
Thomas Lee
Albert & Margie Lew
Winifred Lew

Don Loo
Hoover & Ruby Ling Louie
Dr. Wing & Joyce Mar
William Minderhout
Mei Ong

Francine Redada
Dorothy Schoon
Eugene Moy & Susan Sing
Elizabeth Wong
Winston Wu



NOVEMBER 2012

Dr. Wing Mar

The First Chinese American to Receive the City of Torrance Literary Arts Award

As the city of Torrance celebrates its Centennial year, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California celebrate Dr. Wing Mar as the first Chinese American to receive the city's Literary Arts Award.

Since establishing his residence and medical practice in Torrance nearly 50 years ago, retired geriatric physician, Dr. Wing Mar has provided pro bono medical services to youth and the elderly; led fundraising campaigns for the YMCA and Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC); and worked to foster awareness of the accomplishments of Chinese Americans.

In the mid-1960s, thanks to Dr. Mar's stewardship of a \$500,000 fundraising campaign, the Torrance Young Men's Christian Association (now the South Bay/Torrance Family YMCA) purchased land that allowed it to build a new facility for its activities. In June, 1966, Dr. Mar's service to the "Y" was subsequently awarded by the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles.

In another successful fundraising campaign led by Dr. Mar, CHSSC successfully raised funds between 1998-99 to secure permanent office space and establish an L.A. Chinatown visitors' center.

Dr. Mar initiated the CHSSC Portraits of Pride (PoP) publishing and free-library-book-program to address racial stereotypes and document Chinese Americans' accomplishments in health, science and other fields. In 2004, CHSSC published a groundbreaking book, Portraits of Pride (volume I), that features 35 profiles of distinguished Chinese Americans. Over seven thousand copies have been distributed to date to college, public, and research libraries nationwide.

Dr. Wing Mar has been a caring health care professional, a tireless and successful fundraiser on behalf of community organizations, an advocate and educator for the Chinese American community, and an educator against the threat of nuclear war. Now in his mid-eighties, he has not slowed the pace of his humanitarian activities.

After Dr. Mar thanked Cultural Arts Commissioner, Kathryn Endo-Roberts, for her glowing introduction, he told the audience he is there to represent the PoP team in accepting the award. In his speech about the Portraits of Pride Free-Library book Program, Wing explained the PoP I book came about because 1) there is hardly any information in history books about the Chinese American experience; 2) the team's goal was to bring this book into school and university libraries free of charge so that these inspiring stories could be told to the general public, and 3) all Americans, especially new immigrants—even those who are Chinese immigrants—can learn to understand the cultural and historical significance of what it means to become an American.

To the delight of the audience, the ceremony closed with a lively, a capella rendition of songs performed by the L.A. South Towns Show Chorus. The group of women, of various ages, were dressed in Dixieland straw hats and yellow and black striped suits.

Quite a few audience members mosey over to the Portraits of Pride I and II display table to see the books. They commented on the nice quality of the books, and complimented on PoP II's book jacket art.

Although books sales were not permissible at the event, a woman insisted on purchasing a copy of PoP I to have it autographed by Dr. Mar while he was there.

(Note: a major portion of this article (i.e., Dr. Mar's history) was written by the late Randy Bloch, a longtime staff member and dedicated Portraits of Pride researcher of CHSSC)



Photos by Peter Chun



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

Saturday, November 3, 2012 10:00 am \$5.00

From China to Catalina: (Charlie) Lim Ying and the Bannings
CHSSC Banning Museum Tour
Banning Residence Museum
401 East "M" Street Wilmington, CA 90744
(310) 548-2005
Afterwards CHSSC members will go to a Chinese Buffet
www.chssc.org www.thebanningmuseum.org

Wednesday, November 7, 2012 6:30 Free

Personal and Family History presented by Lynne Choy Uyeda
This inter-active presentation is designed to encourage you to
begin or continue the stories of your family's journey.
Castelar Elementary School 840 Yale St. L.A. 90012
Free Parking – enter via College Street
www.chssc.org www.facebook.com/groups/chssc
chsscorg.blogspot.com

Thursday, November 8, 2012 6:30

Meet the Author; David H.T. Wong *Escape to Gold Mountain*
David H.T. Wong mines his family history and uses an
approachable graphic novel format to tell the story of how the
Chinese came to North America over the course of over 100
years in *Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the
Chinese in North America*. He will share the book, an epic and
moving multi-generational tale in which California features
prominently, and lead a graphic history workshop to teach par-
ticipants how to draw their own family's story in the style of the
book. This event is suitable for ages 12+.
Chinese American Museum 425 N. Los Angeles Street Los
Angeles, CA 90012
www.camla.org www.friendsocl.org

Saturday, November 10th at 2pm. Free

Meet the Author; David H.T. Wong *Escape to Gold Mountain*
is the first graphic novel to tell their story: based on historical
documents and interviews with elders, this is a vivid history of the
Chinese in their search for "Gold Mountain" (the Chinese colloqui-
alism for North America) as seen through the eyes of the Wong
family. They traverse the challenges of eking out an existence in
their adopted homeland with hope and determination, creating a
poignant immigrant's legacy for their sons and daughters.
Torrance Library - Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Community
Meeting Room 3301 Torrance Blvd 90503
www.torranceca.gov/Library
www.chssc.org
www.facebook.com/Escape2Goldmountain
www.arsenalpulp.com www.davidwong.ca
www.escapetogoldmountain.com

Save These Dates

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Christmas – Holiday Potluck
Location to be announced.

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