



OCTOBER 2012



Castelar Elementary School celebrates 130 years on its current site (1882-2012)

Wednesday, October 3, 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.*



The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California will host a birthday party/reunion at Castelar Elementary.

- Hear remembrances from a panel of Castelar alumni
- Watch a show of old photos
- Share your memories during an open mike period
- Meet old friends and make new ones
- Eat birthday cake

Photo show starts at 6:30 so come early.

Castelar Elementary School is the second oldest continuously operating school in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The school opened in 1882 with four classrooms, grades one through eight, in the area now known as Chinatown. Throughout the 130 years, the school's ethnic enrollment has mirrored the changing demographics of the surrounding community which has included Italians, French, Croatians, Chinese, Latinos, and Southeast Asians. Today's enrollment stands at 74% Asian and 24% Latino, 1.5% Black and .5% White. Castelar has been the heart of Chinatown, a place where education is valued and the community comes together.



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The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California expresses its deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of those who were very dear to the society.

Randall Bloch

Dorothy D. Fong

Wing Chuck Loo

Yuek Lee Moy

Benny T. Ong



An Evening with Sonia Mak

On September 5th, Sonia Mak made a captivating and informative presentation about her current projects including 'Round the Clock: Chinese American Artists Working in Los Angeles'. The event took place at the monthly CHSSC meeting at Castelar Elementary School.

Sonia was a founding curator at the Chinese American Museum, and has worked at LACMA, Autry National Center, L.A. County Arts Commission, and Morono Kiang Gallery.



Photos by O.C. Lee

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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.



OCTOBER 2012

Old Chinatown Photo Collection Acquisition

CHSSC has acquired a rare collection of 124 photos depicting Los Angeles' Old Chinatown and its surrounding area. These black and white images (circa 1928-1932) were taken prior to the demolition of Chinatown and the construction of Union Station. Below are examples of those precious photos. A comprehensive exhibit will be on display in the near future.



Property of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

309, 313, 313 1/2 Marchessault Street / Man Jen Low Cafe



Property of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

Corner of Apalabasa Street & Alameda Street / Gee Choy Suey - Joy Yuen Low



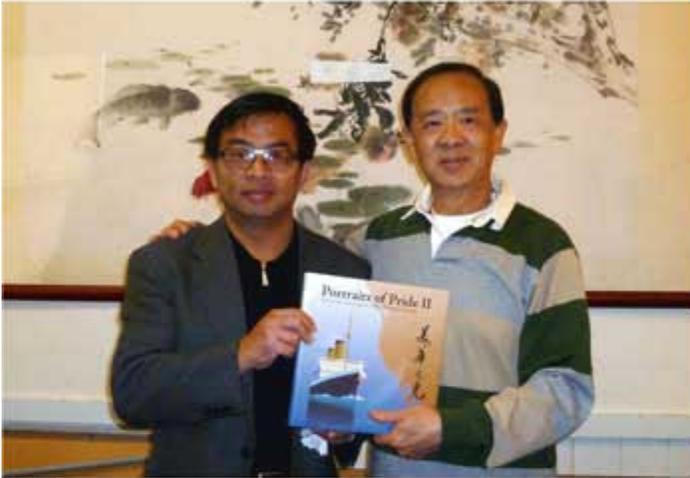
Property of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

401 to 415 Apalabasa Street / Chinese School



OCTOBER 2012

Special Portraits of Pride II Presentation



Thursday, October 25, 2012
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

University of California Irvine
HG 1010

HG stands for Humanities gateway; it is number 611 on the UCI map
(<http://www.uci.edu/campusmap/>)

SPEAKERS:

Yong Chen, PhD

Professor of History and Asian American studies at University of California, Irvine, and author of numerous articles published in leading academic journals, as well as the article "Education: Inconspicuous Prominence in Academia" in *Portraits of Pride II* book.

Flossie Wong-Staal, PhD

Top woman scientist of the past decade, world-renowned pioneer in the field of AIDS research and authority on molecular virology and its disease causation. One of the "unsung heroes" featured in *Portraits of Pride II*.

Q&A and book signing will follow immediately after the presentations.

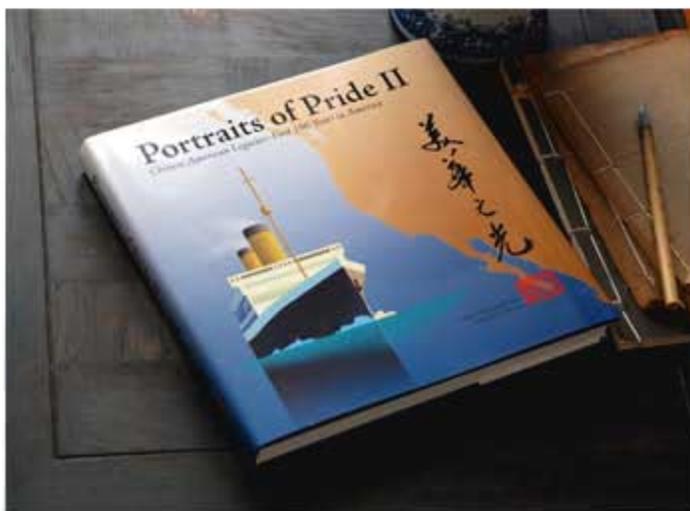
Portraits of Pride II responds to the need for a source book emphasizing pride in the accomplishments of Chinese Americans.

The Portraits of Pride series' mission and purpose is:

1. To fill the "Missing in History" gap left by Chinese Americans;
2. To deepen and increase awareness of the positive contributions of Chinese Americans;
3. To identify role models for our younger generation;
4. To build upon and extend the work done by *Portraits of Pride I* and upcoming CHSSC projects;
5. To broaden and extend the Portraits of Pride "Free Library Book Program"; and
6. To support and mentor succeeding generations of Chinese American historians.



Photo Courtesy of Flossie Wong-Staal, PhD





OCTOBER 2012

Lillian Wong & David Lee: Old Chinatown pioneer families stay in touch

by Angi Ma Wong, Past CHSSC President 1987-1989

Make new friends but keep the old.

The first is silver, but the other is gold. -Anonymous

When charter CHSSC member Norman Wong decided on semi-retirement over a dozen years ago, he joined the Chinese Golf Federation, an organization with over 45 years of history in Los Angeles. Among the golf club's members were Kellogg Chan, Manny Chang, Tony Chau, Dore Wong, Victor Wong and Henry Cheng - all friends who habitually lunched together after their games. Typically, a topic of conversation revolved around which food and restaurants had been or could be sampled. Tony made a chance remark to Norman that many years before in the "old days," he, Manny and Henry had all worked as waiters at General Lee (Man Jen Low) in Chinatown in their youth. Each month, some of the other former employees still gathered for lunch with their former employer David Lee, a longtime community activist and leader. It was during a visit with his mother, Lillian Chung Wong, daughter of Nellie Chung and Yick Hong Chung, doctor of Chinese medicine and herbalist, that she told Norman that she used to know David and his family well. While she and David had met occasionally over the years at community events, she told her son that she'd love to see David again.



Norman Wong, Marie Louie, Yuki Lee, Lillian Wong and David Lee share lunch and memories at NBC Restaurant.



Old timers Lillian Wong and David Lee recall their childhoods in Old Chinatown while looking through *Bitter Roots*.

With just a few phone calls, a lunch was arranged to bring the two oldtimers together. 92-year-old David Lee was reunited with his childhood friend, Lillian, 101 have met twice this year already.

Lillian remembered that almost every week she rode the Red Car (street car) from her home at 917 South Hill Street to the Plaza area to visit her Aunt Emily Lum. Emily, the older sister of Lillian's mother Nellie Yee, lived at 521 Apablaza Street. Her next door neighbors were Peter and Ann Soo Hoo and their nine children, and a few doors away, lived Woo Pak Fong and his family, the youngest child being David.

"David's mother, Lum Cheuk Siu, was very genteel and had beautiful skin," recalls Lillian from the Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra, where she recently hosted a lunch for David and his wife Yuki, sister Marie Chung Louie, son Norman and daughter-in-law Angi Ma Wong, CHSSC Past President 1987-1989.

"I would often drop by the Lee family home, and each time a new baby was born, her Aunt Emily would help the new mother. When David's twin brothers were born, his mother wanted to call them William and Willy but we told her that the names were too similar so she changed Willy's name to Norman instead."

"When David was three years old, I was ten years old. We all called him Shiew because he smiled all the time and was a happy, cute little boy, our family often visited the Soo Hoo family who lived next door."

"Mr. Soo Hoo was blind and he always asked us to stand closer to him so he could put his hand on our heads to see how tall we were. Then he would tell his wife to give each of us a laam (preserved olive). Across the street was a barn that had horses housed there." "Later it was knocked down and replaced by a playground," added David who lives with Yuki in Los Angeles.

*The story of Lillian Chung Wong's grandparents, Yee Hay and Chan See, is found in the award-winning book *Bitter Roots: A Gum Saan Odyssey* (PacificHeritageBooks.com 310-541-8818) written by Lillian's late brother, Dr. Arthur Chung, at the age of 92. The Yee family was the first Chinese family in Ventura's Chinatown and is featured prominently in the current "Hidden Lives: A Century of Chinese American History in Ventura County" exhibit at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 East Main Street, Ventura, through November 25. www.venturamuseum.org Highlights include Nellie Chung's wedding dress and Dr. Y.H. Chung's queue.*



Lillian Chung Wong, 101, and her sister Marie Chung Louie, 85, were recently honored at the Chinese Cultural Festival at the Museum of Ventura County.



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, September 29, 2012 5:00pm

74th Annual Moon Festival - Cultural performances, free hands-on workshops, live music curated by Kevin Bronson of Buzzbands LA, moon viewing with telescopes provided by Griffith Observatory...and of course moon cake sampling by Chinatown bakeries
www.chinatownla.com

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www.chssc.org www.facebook.com/groups/chssc
chssc.org.blogspot.com/

Saturday, October 20, 2012 10:00am - 12noon

The Chinese American Interest Group is newly formed and will begin meeting in 2012. This group is an outgrowth of a group which has been meeting informally for the past year. The focus is to gather information and resources to assist those on a quest to trace their Chinese American ancestors, with special attention to the impact on family histories of the Exclusion Act (1882-1943) and restrictive quotas which did not change until the late 1960's.

Southern California Genealogical Society
417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91504-2408
818-843-7247 or scgsgenealogy.com

Wednesday, October 24, 2012 6:30pm

Commemoration

Los Angeles Chinese Massacre of 1871

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act

Death of Vincent Chin in 1982

Scott Zesch, writer of *The Chinatown Wars: Chinese Los Angeles and the Massacre of 1871* and Frank Wu, Chancellor Dean of the UC Hastings College of the Law, will speak. Michael Woo, Cal Poly Pomona's Dean of College of Environmental Design, will serve as a moderator.

Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
www.camla.org

Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:00 - 6:00pm

Special Portraits of Pride II Presentation

Speakers: Prof. Yong Chen and Flossie Wong-Staal, PhD

University of California Irvine, HG 1010 (HG stands for Humanities gateway; it is number 611 on the UCI map)
www.uci.edu/campusmap

Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:00pm

Hidden Lives book talk by William Gow

William Gow discusses the role of Chinese immigrants in the evolution of Ventura County, with emphasis on the history of Oxnard's Chinese community. Gow is the great-grandson of Wong Ah Gow and Lou Oy Gow who owned Gow Markets in Oxnard in the early 1900s. He recently co-authored *Hidden Lives: A Century of Chinese American History in Ventura County*. Following the talk there will be time for Q&A and book signing.

\$5, MVC members free
RSVP: 805.653.0323 x7