

JULY 2013



## Summer Barbeque and Reunion with the L.A. Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, and the Los Angeles Chinese "Imperial Dragons" Drum and Bugle Corps invite you to a summer barbeque and reunion at the Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center.

Saturday, July 27, 2013 - 12:00 noon

*Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California  
411 Bernard Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

Former Corps members have been working hard to establish a permanent legacy exhibit representing the various time periods of the Corps' history which dates back more than 60 years. The CHSSC will be assisting in this project. A preview of the exhibit will be on display at this event. Additionally, we are seeking ideas, input and participation regarding the exhibit that we all hope will provide an enduring legacy of the Corps' important history and positive impact it had on so many people and the community.

All Corps alumni members are encouraged to attend this preview opening to enjoy a BBQ, reunite with former members, share their memories and meet members of the CHSSC.



## The CHSSC Board of Directors

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California elected its board of directors on June 5, 2013 for the 2013-2014 term. Congratulations and best wishes to these devoted individuals and a special welcome to newly elected Helen Quon.



## Return of the Dragon to L.A.'s Chinatown

On June 15, 2013, a statue of Bruce Lee was unveiled in Chinatown during a commemorative celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Los Angeles' "New Chinatown". The Bruce Lee Statue Project is a community initiative aimed at celebrating the life and legacy of Bruce Lee. Bruce Lee's contributions to martial arts and action films were truly innovative. More importantly, Bruce Lee was an Asian American pioneer who changed our cultural landscape by breaking down racial barriers and creating a personal philosophy that continues to inspire millions of people worldwide.



L. to R.: Wei Wong, Representative of the Bruce Lee Statue Project Committee. Congressman Xavier Becerra, LACC President, Larry Jung and Bruce Lee's daughter, Shannon Lee Photo: O.C. Lee

## Board of Directors

### Officers

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

### Members at Large

Su Chen  
Jenny Cho  
Clement Lai  
Winifred Lew  
Donald Loo  
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.



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## Pilgrimage to Wawona and Sing Peak

**Commemorating the contributions of early Chinese in Yosemite National Park – road builders, famous cooks, service workers and more.**

Yosemite National Park is a jewel in America's National Park System. In 2014, Yosemite National Park will celebrate its 150th year since it was set aside as protected parkland. What is not often mentioned are the contributions of Chinese Americans who played a role in the park's history. A short video produced by Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Conservancy featuring Ranger Yenyen Chan has brought the incredible work of these Chinese Americans to light along with the story of Ty Sing, a cook who now has a mountain peak named after him, Sing Peak.

The contributions of Chinese Americans should be a more prominent part of Yosemite's history. We hope to promote events and activities that tell the stories of these and other Chinese Americans as part of Yosemite's celebration in 2014 and beyond.

Beginning in August 2013, A Pilgrimage to Wawona -- in the southern part of Yosemite, will take place with these events:

- Saturday August 3rd, The Sing Project Dinner: A celebratory dinner event in historic Wawona will "kick off" this project. Rangers and guest speakers will present the history of Yosemite and the role of Chinese in that history.
- Sunday, August 4th, Morning Planning Meeting: A gathering in Wawona will take place to discuss plans for events in 2014 and help promote Chinese history in the Sierras.
- August 5th - 7th, Pilgrimage to Sing Peak: For experienced backpackers, a small group will attempt to ascend Sing Peak (10,552'), on the southeastern border of Yosemite National Park, reaching the summit on or about Aug. 6th, weather and other conditions permitting.



The Pilgrimage to Sing Peak is a strenuous climb with a net gain of approximately 2300 ft and 2 miles of route finding and rock scrambling. We have 23 spaces available and will depart from two separate trail heads on Tuesday, August 5. If you wish to participate, please contact Jack Shu at 619.460.9315.

We encourage other historical societies, civic groups and the business community to join in this pilgrimage project by becoming a partner. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to make contributions to the Sing Peak Project Fund, a special account within CHSSC to be used to promote this project and develop educational materials. Contact CHSSC at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com) or call 323.222.0856 if you are interested in this project or want to participate in any of the events this August. Yosemite is very popular in the summer so if you are planning to spend a night in the area, you will need to make arrangements for accommodations early. The nearest towns with lodging availability are Fish Camp and Oakhurst, California (between 10-30 minutes drive from the park).

Note: The Dinner and Meeting are held in Yosemite National Park. There will be a normal entrance fee that applies to all park visitors.

See the video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kdyrfXGz90>

Register Now!  
<http://www.eventbrite.com/web-integration?eid=6983839853>



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## Rancho Cucamonga Chinatown House Receives National Recognition

*Chinese American historic site selected as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Places.*

The Chinatown House in Rancho Cucamonga, CA, has been named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for inclusion in its 26th Annual 11 Most Endangered Historic Places® list. This annual recognition spotlights important examples of the nation's architectural, cultural and natural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage.

Built in 1920, the building was the center of a small but important community of Chinese workers that developed before 1900 in an agricultural valley 40 miles east of Los Angeles. Built on ranch land owned by William Araiza, a native Californian, the building housed a general store with rooms and a dormitory for Chinese workers. It functioned also as a rooming house for workers who lived in outlying farms and came into town occasionally to socialize with other Chinese.

After Mah Wong, the last Chinese resident, passed in 1944, the property was sold to a local family, the Navarettes, and subsequently, to the Cucamonga Valley Water District in 1988. For the past 25 years, the building has been vacant. Of the 15-20 Chinatown settlements scattered across the Southern California landscape in the late 19th and early 20th century, this is the last remaining structure, outside of Los Angeles Chinatown, built for and occupied by Chinese workers.

The Chinatown House building was constructed with structural walls of unreinforced hollow clay tile and clay brick. Recently, cracks in the mortar, sagging walls, and a deteriorated roof have led the City of Rancho Cucamonga to issue an order to the Water District to correct the structural problems or demolish the building.

Local preservation advocates issued an alert, and a number of groups have organized a Chinatown House Preservation Coalition that includes: The Historical Preservation Association of Rancho Cucamonga; the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California; the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), the Organization of Chinese Americans-Greater L.A. Chapter (OCA-GLA); the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, Southern Chapter; and Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIA-HiP). Members of the Coalition have been urging the City and Water District to support the preservation of the site and not allow "demolition by neglect". A web site has been created to provide information and news of the Coalition's efforts to save this last remaining building from all of our region's Chinatowns: [www.savechinatownhouse.org](http://www.savechinatownhouse.org)

The Chinatown House is the only California site and is among distinguished national company for the 2013 America's Most Endangered list. Among the other honorees for this year are the Astrodome, Houston, Texas; Gay Head Lighthouse, Aquinnah, Massachusetts; San Jose Church, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico; and the Worldport Terminal at JFK Airport, Jamaica, New York. America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places has identified more than 240 threatened one-of-a-kind historic treasures since 1988. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places to enrich our future. For more information, visit [www.PreservationNation.org/places](http://www.PreservationNation.org/places).





## Printing of our Portraits of Pride II, the Second Edition, in Progress

By Marian Chew

After the December 2012 distribution of 1800 copies of Portraits of Pride II (PoP II), within weeks, we received 38 feedbacks (three are shown following) from educators in 18 states including AZ, CA, CT, IL, IN, LA, MD, MI, MO, NE, NJ, OH, PA, RI, SC, TX, UT, & WA and a major \$5000 donation from a donor who wants to support the continuation of our Free Library-Book Program.

In the second edition, a Hall of Pride page has been added for acknowledging our most generous donors of the free-book distribution. The folks listed on this page, and many others that are listed on other PoP pages, are the ones who have made possible the distribution, to date, of over 9,000 PoP books to libraries nationwide.



This second edition will be available early fall this year. While we wait, I encourage you to help us meet our goal of placing 20,000 copies of PoP II in the libraries of middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities by (1) suggesting a library list and (2) by making a donation to PoP/CHSSC.

Excerpts from grade schools (K-12):

"I think it is important for children to understand the heritage of America. We are largely a nation of immigrants. The early Chinese immigrants had a big part in helping build the West and America. I hope too that it will inspire them to dream about their futures and what kind of legacy they will leave."

~Joy Satterstrom, Librarian  
Achiever Christian School, San Jose, CA

"Please thank your supporters for their generous donations and support of your organization ensuring that the Portraits of Pride series will continually be available in our nation's libraries and that the legacy of Chinese Americans will never be forgotten. Reading about other cultures and remembering their contributions enriches our overall American culture."

~Andrea J. Cantania-Stephenson, M. Ed., Teacher Librarian  
El Camino High School, Sacramento, CA

"It is important to feature heroes that may inspire our students regardless of their race or nationality. Many of our students can relate to the immigrant experience. I would hope this book will inspire them to push themselves a bit harder and achieve personal successes."

~Karen Joesten, Library Media Teacher  
Juan Cabrillo Middle School, Santa Clara, CA

We have only ten copies of PoP II remaining on inventory. This first edition will possibly become a collector's item. You can own a copy by simply sending a \$40 check payable to PoP/CHSSC and sending it to: CHSSC, 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

## 75th Anniversary of New Chinatown and Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation Dinner

CHSSC collaborated with the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation on the 75th Anniversary of New Chinatown and the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation Dinner at Golden Dragon on June 15, 2013. After the dinner, participants joined Shannon Lee and the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation in unveiling the Bruce Lee statue in Central Plaza. In his speech to the attendees, Dinner Chair and LACC Treasurer Jason Fujimoto publicly thanked Fenton Fong Eng and Jenny Cho for their hard work on the event and dinner program. CHSSC board members, members, and supporters volunteered before and after the event: Eugene Moy, Gordon Hom, Francine Redada, Steven Ng, O.C. Lee, Tom Eng, Mei Ong, Will Yuen, Susan Sing, Rick Eng, Dora Quach, and Michael Truong.

This photo shows our CHSSC volunteers with special guests James Hong, Susan Hong, and April Hong.



Photo: Jenny Cho



## 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](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)

### Community Calendar

**Saturday, July 20, 2013 5:00 pm - Midnight**

#### **Chinatown Summer Nights**

Central Plaza - West Plaza - Mandarin Plaza

Part food event, part summer party, taste the many culinary offerings of Chinatown and LA's gourmet food trucks; sample the neighborhood's wares; watch Chinese chefs perform cooking demos; take part in hands-on, Chinese cultural activities; sip on craft brews and dance in Central Plaza with 89.9 KCRW's DJ's!

*Presented by the Chinatown Business Improvement District, Community Arts Resources (CARS) and KCRW, in association with Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation, and the ChungKing Plaza Association*

**Wednesday, July 24, 2013 7:30 pm**

#### **Hiding in a Cave of Trunks: A Prominent Jewish Family's Century in Shanghai and the Internment in a WWII POW Camp**

Meet Author Ester Benjamin Shifren Book Talk/Book Signing  
China-born Ester Shifren is the descendant of five generations of British Jewish Nationals living in Shanghai for more than one century. She and her family were interned by the Japanese during WWII. Between 1987 and 2004, Ester managed to tape three interviews of her parents that yielded 100 transcribed pages of invaluable information for use in her book. She has lectured extensively internationally about her life, the multi ethnic groups and cultures, and the Japanese incarceration of Far Eastern Allies, in Shanghai.

If you have not been to Cerritos Library, come an hour earlier to tour RD's, Parent's Mag & LA Mag Best Public Library  
18025 Bloomfield Ave Cerritos, CA 90703  
<http://menu.ci.cerritos.ca.us/> (562) 916-1342

**Saturday, July 27, 2013 12:00 noon**

#### **Summer Barbeque and Reunion**

Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps, aka Imperial Dragons "Preview Opening" of our Legacy Project  
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Headquarters  
411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### **Pilgrimage to Wawona and Sing Peak**

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