



Finding KUKAN:

*A Chinese American
Filmmaker's Perspective*

Presented by Robin Lung

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.

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

Free parking - enter via College Street

Refreshments will be served

This event is free and open to the public

At the end of 2009 Hawaii-based documentary filmmaker Robin Lung discovered a 1941 Oscar-winning color film on China that had fallen into almost total obscurity after being lost for decades. Her documentary in progress, *Finding KUKAN*, chronicles her quest to restore the lost film *KUKAN* to its rightful place in history and uncover the story of *KUKAN*'s makers – the unconventional Hawaii Chinese author and playwright Li Ling-Ai, and the adventurous photojournalist Rey Scott. Lung will present video clips from *Finding KUKAN* and the un-restored 1941 film *KUKAN* as she speaks about her filmmaker's journey thus far.

About Robin Lung: Robin Lung is a fourth generation Chinese American who was raised in Hawaii. A graduate of Stanford University and Hunter College in NYC, Lung completed a successful career in publishing and university administration before becoming a self-taught documentary filmmaker ten years ago. As a filmmaker she is driven by a desire to preserve the stories of extraordinary people from minority backgrounds who are often overlooked by mainstream media. Lung made her directorial debut with *Washington Place: Hawaii's First Home*, a 30-minute documentary for PBS Hawaii about Hawaii's historic governor's mansion and home of Queen Liliuokalani (aired December 2008). She was the Associate Producer for the national PBS documentary *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority* (aired October 2008). She was the Hawaii Unit Producer for the acclaimed documentary *Vivan Las Antipodas!* by Russian filmmaker Victor Kossakovsky, and has produced numerous short documentaries for the Historic Hawaii Foundation.



KUKAN Producer Li Ling-Ai and Director Rey Scott



MAY 2013

Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors 2013-2014

The following have been nominated to the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Board of Directors of 2013-2014

Officers

President - Susan Dickson
Vice President - Eugene Moy
VP for Programs - Gordon Hom
Secretary - (Open)*
Membership Sec. - Kelly Fong
Treasurer - Richard Liu

Members at Large for 2-year Term

Steven Ng
Mei T. Ong
William Yuen
(Open)*
(Open)*

Members at Large returning for 2nd Year of 2-year Term (Not for Election)

Su Chen
Jenny Cho
Clement Lai
Winifred Lew
Francine Redada

Board members serve from July 1 to June 30.

The Board of Directors meet on the second Saturday of each month
from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Board members have opportunities to
serve on committees such as the Archive Committee, the Programs
Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Outreach Committee,
etc. Committees meet at various agreed upon dates and times.

Election will take place at the June 5th meeting at
Castelar Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room.

*We will accept nominations from the floor at the May meeting.

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

Members at Large

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 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.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

MAY 2013

2013 Ch'ing Ming Festival

On April 6, 2013 CHSSC hosted Ch'ing Ming (Chinese Memorial Day) Festival at the historic Chinese Memorial Shrine at Evergreen Cemetery. The ceremony included a special remembrance of Randall Bloch, champion of the preservation of the Chinese Memorial Shrine. The Shrine stands at the center of what was once a 19th century Chinese cemetery. Built in 1888 by the people of Los Angeles' Old Chinatown, the Shrine is considered the earliest extant Chinese structure in Los Angeles. The site remains culturally and historically significant and has been designated Los Angeles Historic/Cultural Monument No. 486. It is owned and maintained by CHSSC.





MAY 2013

Annual Golden Spike Awards Dinner

Saturday, May 18, 2013 - 6:00 pm

Please join us in honoring:



Grand Star Jazz Club

Owned and operated by the Quon family for over 67 years. Him Gin Quon and his wife Yiu Hai Quon opened Grand Star Restaurant after World War II. The Quon family has been a part of Los Angeles for over a hundred years and are pioneering entrepreneurs in the Chinatown restaurant industry. Grand Star eventually transitioned from a restaurant into a nightclub, playing an important role in Chinatown's social life. Grand Star Jazz Club serves as a popular meeting place for celebrities, politicians, athletes, and other important members of the community. Today, it is run by brothers Wallace and Frank Quon, along with Frank's son Tony.

Jin Hing & Co.

One of the oldest continuously operating Chinese jewelry-antique stores in Southern California. Lee King Yee, a Master Goldsmith, and his son Leon Lee founded Jin Hing Co. during the Great Depression in 1933. The store was originally located at 446 ½ Los Angeles Street selling jewelry only. The business would move to its current location at 412 Bamboo Lane in 1950 where it began to sell both jewelry and antiques. Robert "Bob" Lee, son of Leon Lee, would take over the business and amass an impressive collection of Chinese antiques. Bob continues to run the store today specializing in a variety of items such as jewelry, antiques, rare books, and snuff bottles.



K.G. Louie

Established by Ping Yuen Louie on the corner of Gin Ling Way and Sun Mun Way in Central Plaza in 1938. Rich cultural figurines, jades, vases, trinkets, and postcards first sold during its grand opening are still sold to this day. Ping Yuen Louie would marry Lee Shee Louie. Ping Yuen Louie's children continue to preserve and keep their father's legacy alive by working at the Louie store. K.G. Louie serves as a symbol of success and perseverance during times when founding Chinese families were prohibited from buying property, obtaining bank loans, and securing desirable jobs.



MAY 2013

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of New Chinatown

Empress Pavilion Restaurant

Please join us in honoring:



Phoenix Bakery

Founded in 1938 by Fung Chow Chan and his wife, Wai Hing, the idea was to produce traditional Chinese pastries and cookies not found locally. Chow's brother Lun Chan would join the business and help introduce the traditional fresh strawberry whipped cream cake. With a growing repertoire of desserts and pastries, Phoenix Bakery became a staple in Chinatown, moving to its now current location on Broadway in 1977 to accommodate its high demand. The next generation of Chans, including Kelly, a CPA, and Youlen, a graduate of the American Institute of Baking have taken over the responsibilities and continue to make quality pastries and desserts for the people of Los Angeles.

Phoenix Imports

Both Phoenix Imports and Hop Louie Restaurant are owned and operated by Walter SooHoo. The SooHoo family dates back to Old Chinatown when She Wing SooHoo, Walter SooHoo's father, opened Chew Yuen Company at 308 Marchessault Street. She Wing would become one of the founding business owners of New Chinatown. In 1981, Walter SooHoo purchased Phoenix Imports' storefront previously occupied by the Mu Brothers. Walter SooHoo named Phoenix Imports after his wife Eileen SooHoo's Chinese name. Both businesses are maintained by Walter and Eileen to this day.



Sincere Imports

Started in 1938 by Fong Kin Chin and Ida Leong Chin as, Sincere Gift Shop, a little booth in Old Chinatown on Olvera Street. Fong and Ida would have three children; Sylvia, Johnny, and Joyce who would grow up with the shop. Johnny Chin and his mother Ida continued the family legacy after moving the store to its current location on Gin Ling Way in Central Plaza. Sincere Gift Shop would be renamed Sincere Imports. One of the store goals is to specialize in the importing of Chinese art, artifacts, and heritage through its items for sale in Chinatown.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Annual Golden Spike Awards Dinner
Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of New Chinatown

Saturday, May 18, 2013 – 6:00 pm
Empress Pavilion Restaurant
988 North Hill Street #201
Los Angeles Chinatown, CA 90012

Recognizing and honoring:

Grand Star Jazz Club
Phoenix Bakery
Jack Ong

Jin Hing & Co.
Phoenix Imports
Milton Quon

K.G. Louie
Sincere Imports
Cy Wong

Please reserve ___ tickets @ \$100 per person (members), ___ tickets @ \$135 per person (non-members), OR

I wish to be a:

☐ Jade Table Sponsor \$1000*

☐ Gold Table Sponsor \$3,500

*Jade Table Sponsorship requires purchaser to be member

☐ Silver Table Sponsor \$1,350

☐ Diamond Table Sponsor \$5,000

☐ I want to donate silent auction item(s): Please call me at () _____

☐ I want to place an ad in your event program. Please call me at () _____

Sponsor Name _____

Please list guest names: _____

☐ I/we will not be able to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

VISA/MC Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Total Contribution \$ _____

RSVP by April 30th, 2013 Remit form and submit payment to: CHSSC 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Credit Card payment can be phoned in to 323-222-0856 or mailed to above address.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax I.D. # 95-3155357



MAY 2013

Celebrating 130 Years Castelar Street Elementary School

Please join us on Friday, May 24, 2013 - 1:00 pm

Castelar School
850 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

This will also include an open house after the celebration in the multi-purpose room hosted by the school. The new Music Room will have historic photos that will be available for public viewing.

In 1882, Los Angeles opened a four-room school across from the French Hospital. In 1903, the main building of the little school was destroyed by fire and a 13-room Victorian structure was built in its place. By the 1970s, the Victorian gave way to a new 33-room complex.

Castelar Elementary School is the second oldest continuously operating school in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Through these 130 years, Castelar School has successfully laid the academic foundation for many generations of children. Castelar remains a unique part of Los Angeles' multicultural history.



Pilgrimage to Wawona and Sing Peak

*Sponsored by the
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California*

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

Scheduled Events:

Saturday, August 3rd, The Sing Project Dinner:
A celebratory dinner in historic Wawona to "kick off" the project.

Sunday, August 4th, Morning Planning Meeting:
Discussion of plans for future events and to promote
Chinese history in the Sierras.

August 5th – 7th Pilgrimage to Sing Peak:
For experienced backpackers, a small group will ascent
Sing Peak (10,552'), on the southeastern border of Yosemite
National Park, reaching the summit on or about Aug. 6th.

For info contact us at chssc@hotmail.com or call 323.222.0856



Ida Fong Lee
August 21, 1913 - March 30, 2013

Ida Fong Lee passed away peacefully at home. She was born in Canton, China and came to the U.S. at age three. Predeceased by husband Alfred Lem Lee, sister Pearl Wong, and brother Richard Fong. Survived by children Jo Ann, Sherwood (Margaret), and Ron Lee; five grandchildren; three great-grandsons; several nephews and nieces. Ida Fong Lee was a long time 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, May 1, 2013 6:30

Finding KUKAN: A Chinese American Filmmaker's Perspective

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Thursday, May 2 thru May 12

29th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival,

presented by Visual Communications, running May 2 through 12 at venues around Los Angeles and Long Beach. With a lineup of over 140 films, LAAPFF is a showcase of some of the latest and greatest documentaries and narratives representing a diversity of Asian and Asian Pacific American voices.

<http://asianfilmfestla.org/2013>

Saturday, May 4th 10:00 am

Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps, aka Imperial Dragons

Will be meeting at the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) for their Legacy meetings / project at 415 Bernard Street 90012
www.lacimperialdragons.org

Monday, May 6, 2013

China Society of Southern California

7:00 pm Dinner (\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members)

8:00 pm Lecture (no cost)

Speaker, Dennis George Crow, collector of antique photographs
Topic, Old Shanghai's Bund - The history and rare images from the 19th century.

For more details: www.chinasocietyofsocal.org

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

Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 pm.

Book Talk: Southern Fried Rice

Author John Jung wrote *Southern Fried Rice*, *Life in A Chinese Laundry in the Deep South* & *Chinese Laundries: Tickets to Survival on Gold Mountain*.
Rosemead Library 8800 Valley Blvd. Rosemead, CA 91770
(626) 573-5220

<http://chineseamericanhistorian.blogspot.com/>