

NEWS'N NOTES



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

JUNE 2014

Forbidden City, USA

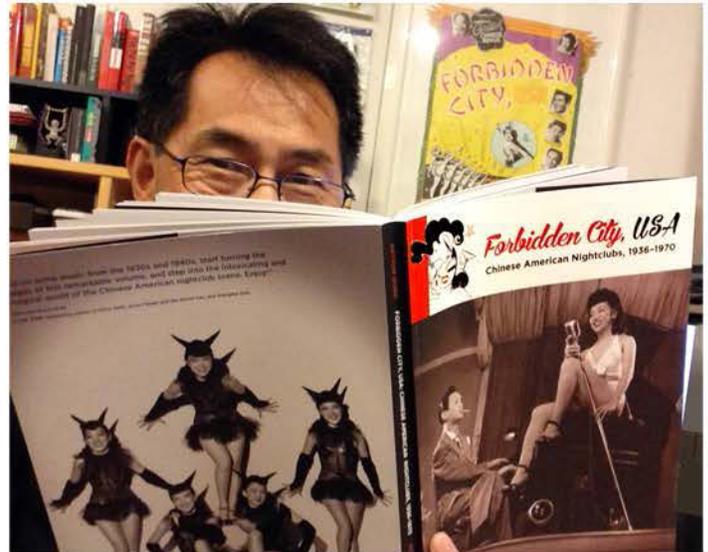
Chinese American Nightclubs 1936-1970

Presented by Arthur Dong

Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 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.



"Put on some music from the 1930s and 1940s, start turning the pages of this remarkable volume, and step into the intoxicating and magical world of the Chinese American nightclub scene. Enjoy!"

— From the foreword by
Lisa See, bestselling author of *China Dolls*, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, and *Shanghai Girls*

Writer/filmmaker Arthur Dong discusses his critically-acclaimed new book, *Forbidden City, USA: Chinese American Nightclubs, 1936-1970*. A book sale and signing follows. *Forbidden City, USA* captures the magic and glamour of the Chinese American nightclub scene, which peaked in San Francisco during World War II. Previously unpublished personal stories, along with over four hundred stunning images and rare artifacts, are presented in this sexy and insightful chronicle of Asian American performers who defied racial and cultural barriers to pursue their showbiz dreams.

It was the mid-1930s: Prohibition was repealed and the Great Depression was waning. With a global conflict on the rise, people were out to drink, dine, dance, and see a show to forget their woes—and what a surprise for the world to behold, an emerging generation of Chinese American entertainers commanding the stage in their own nightclubs. *Forbidden City, USA* reveals the sassy, daring, and sometimes heartbreaking memories of the dancers, singers, and producers who lived this story. It weaves in a fascinating collection of photos, postcards, menus, programs, and yes, even souvenir chopsticks. Together they recreate a forgotten era, treating readers to a dazzling night on the town.

Forbidden City, USA is the culmination of filmmaker and writer Arthur Dong's nearly thirty-year devotion to the topic, originally inspired by the author's research for his documentary of the same name.

More on the book: <http://ForbiddenCityBook.com/>



JUNE 2014

Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors 2014-2015

The following have been nominated to the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California Board of Directors of 2014-2015

Officers

President - Don Loo
Vice President - Winifred Lew
VP for Programs - Susan Dickson
Secretary - Helen Quon
Membership Sec. - Kelly Fong
Treasurer - Richard Liu

Members at Large for 2-year Term

Gilbert Hom
Gordon Hom
Clement Lai
Shirley Chu Ng
Eugene W. Moy

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

Rick Eng
Mei T. Ong

Board members serve from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.
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 4, 2014 meeting at
Castelar Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room.

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
Rick Eng
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 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.



JUNE 2014

May 29, 2014

Dear friends of CHSSC,

I want to thank you for your past support of CHSSC and your continued interest in Chinese American history. We have noticed that you have not renewed your CHSSC membership for 2014 and I want to encourage you to do so. It is not too late to renew! With a membership, you receive your 2014 copy of Gum Saan Journal, our monthly newsletter, News N' Notes, and, most importantly continue supporting CHSSC. As in past years, CHSSC has four different membership levels: Student/Senior (\$32/year); Silver (\$57/year); 100 x 100 Club (\$100/year); and Diamond (\$300/year). The 2014 issue of Gum Saan Journal is titled "Voices of Chinatown," and features personal stories from Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Chinatowns. This is definitely an issue you do not want to miss! Additionally, please note that this will be the last copy of News N' Notes you receive until you renew. If you want to continue reading about what is happening with CHSSC, renew your membership today!

Your support allows CHSSC to host our monthly meetings with speakers from across the United States as well as countless public programs at local libraries, community centers, and museums throughout Southern California. These events are organized by CHSSC volunteers and are free to the public. CHSSC staff and volunteers also have continued giving walking tours and collecting oral histories to continue to educate and preserve Chinese American history. With your support, we have made CHSSC one of the most active Chinese American historical societies in the United States.

We plan to continue organizing exciting events in 2014, but we cannot do this your continued support. Your membership fees and donations are essential to keeping our programs and events running, our publications printed and mailed, our facilities maintained, and our offices staffed. We also have ongoing projects in our archives, including digitizing and organizing our archives, supervising interns, and working with independent authors to publish their research on Chinese American communities. With your support, we will be able to continue projects and preserve and promote Chinese American history. I encourage you to renew your membership today and look forward to seeing you at a future CHSSC event.

Sincerely,


Kelly Fong, Ph.D.
CHSSC Membership Secretary

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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Southern California was organized in 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.

New Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Visa/MC # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	\$ 57.
<input type="checkbox"/> 100 x 100 Club	\$ 100.
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond	\$ 300.
<input type="checkbox"/> Student or Senior (60+)	\$ 32.
Donation (tax deductible)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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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 _____



JUNE 2014



On May 10, 2014 a group of Asian Americans, including descendants of Chinese railroad workers, recreated an iconic photo on the 145th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad's completion at Promontory Summit, Utah. - Courtesy of Corky Lee

Excerpts from NPR's Code Switch by Hansi Lo Wang

Descendants Of Chinese Laborers Reclaim Railroad's History

East finally met West 145 years ago on America's first transcontinental railroad.

The symbolic hammering of a golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah, completed the connection between the country's two coasts and shortened a cross-country trip of more than six months down to a week.

Much of the building was done by thousands of laborers brought in from China, but their faces were left out of photographs taken on that momentous day.

Over the years, one photograph in particular from May 10, 1869, has taken root in U.S. history.

The iconic image shows a crowd of men swarmed around two locomotives.

"In the middle are the two engineers shaking hands," Yu says. "And above them are workers hoisting champagne bottles."

The bubbly marked the long-awaited completion of the Gateway to the American West, nearly 2,000 miles of iron rail that crossed the Rockies and Sierra Nevada.

But the portrait wasn't perfect.



The original photo commemorating the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869 did not include Chinese laborers. -Courtesy of National Archives

"History — at least photographically — says that the Chinese were not present," says photographer Corky Lee.

As a junior high school student, he pored over the photo with a magnifying glass. But he couldn't spot a single Chinese laborer in the picture, even though more than 12,000 workers from southern China were hired by the Central Pacific Railroad. They made up the overwhelming majority of its workforce.

So, in 2002, Lee gathered a group of Chinese Americans at that same location in northern Utah to re-create the historic shot, and he did it again on Saturday, May 10, 2014 with some descendants of those Chinese laborers.



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Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at chssc@hotmail.com

Community Calendar

Monday, June 2, 2014 7:00 pm

The China Society of Southern California

The speaker Li Wei Yang will present You Chung Hong

– the first Chinese person admitted to the California Bar.

Li Wei Yang of the Huntington Library will draw on the Collection of Y.C. Hong to outline Hong's remarkable life and contribution to the Chinese American community. He is an active member of the Society of California Archivists and has been an archivist at the Huntington Library since 2008.

Dinner at 7:00 and presentation @ 8:00., \$20 for members of China Society and any organization that will co-sponsor. Cost for non-members of China Society/co-sponsor is \$25.

Golden Dragon Restaurant in Chinatown
960 N. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012

For tickets: rsvp@chinasocietyofsocal.org or 310-454-3621

Wednesday, June 4, 2014 7:00 pm Free

Arthur Dong Presents Forbidden City, U.S.A.

His new book captures the magic and glamour of a Chinese American nightclub scene that peaked in San Francisco during World War II. Arthur will discuss his critically-acclaimed book that combines first-hand accounts with over four hundred stunning photos, postcards, menus, and programs to recreate a forgotten time, taking readers on a dazzling tour of the old "Chop Suey Circuit." Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. **EVENT SPECIAL:** Free DVD

by Arthur Dong with each book sale (while supplies last).
Castelar Elementary School 840 Yale St. L.A. 90012

Free Parking – enter via College Street

ForbiddenCityBook.com www.chssc.org

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

Saturday, June 14, 2014 2:00 pm

Anna May Wong ~ Frosted Yellow Willows:

Her Life, Times and Legend (2007)

Screening hosted by The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC)

Narrated by Nancy Kwan. It is the first biographical documentary film on the first Asian American actress to achieve international and Hollywood stardom both in silent and early talking films. This Anna May Wong (1905-1961) 10-year in-the-making documentary film has screened and premiered in Pordenone, Italy; London, England; Glasgow, Scotland; Melbourne, Australia as well as major cities within the United States and in England. It aired on TCM (Turner Classic Movies) Producer/director Elaine Mae Woo will be present.

This event is FREE & Open to the public.

Torrance Library Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance 90503. 310-618-5959

Monday, June 30, 2014 7:00 pm Free

Lisa See: "China Dolls" Book Talk

Lisa See, the best selling author of "Dreams of Joy", "Peony in Love" will discuss her exciting new novel "China Dolls" set in the Chop Suey Circuit of San Francisco right before World War II. Lisa See has garnered international acclaim for her skill at rendering the intricate relationships of women and the complex meeting of history and fate.

Her books will be available for purchase and signing.

Cerritos Library - Skyline Room
18025 Bloomfield Ave Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 916-1350

menu.ci.cerritos.ca.us