

OCTOBER 2014

Keye Luke

Special Film Screening

Wednesday, October 1, 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.

A mix of stage play, Hollywood re-enactment and historical lesson" as well as "a quality short film, period. - Film Threat

KEYE LUKE is an examination and celebration of the life and early career of Keye Luke, an artist, painter and pioneering actor most known for playing the original Kato in the 1940s Green Hornet decades before Bruce Lee, the All-American "Number One Son" in the popular Charlie Chan films of the 1930s, and Detective James Lee Wong in the Phantom of Chinatown (1940), the very first Film Noir to feature an Asian American lead detective character. With over 200 films/TV shows under his belt, Luke went on to star as Master Po in "Kung Fu", as Mr. Wing in the Gremlins films, and voiced characters such as Brak in the Hanna-Barbera cartoon Space Ghost (1966). His career also became "full circle" when he was asked to voice Charlie Chan in Hanna-Barbera's animated series "The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan" (1972). The short film KEYE LUKE, which is a hybrid between the documentary and narrative film genres, focuses on the early life and work of Mr. Luke, as well as his family, friends and colleagues/collaborators during the 1930s-1940s.

The film is directed, written, produced and edited by Timothy Tau. Timothy Tau is an award-winning writer and filmmaker and was recently named by PolicyMic magazine as "6 Young Asian-American Filmmakers Who Are Shattering America's Asian Film Bias." His short story "The Understudy" won Grand Prize in the 2011 Hyphen Asian American Writer's Workshop Short Story Contest and is published in the 2011 Issue of Hyphen Magazine. Tau has directed, wrote and produced a number of short films and music videos for some of the leading artists in Asian American entertainment such as dumbfounded/Parker, Paul Kim, Megan Lee, The Fung Bros., CHOPS, and more, a number of which have amassed over 300k views and collectively over a million views on Youtube. KEYE LUKE has won a number of awards, including an Audience Award at the February Screening at the 2014 HollyShorts Film Festival and Best Original Score for the film's composer George Shaw at the 2013 Asians on Film Festival. Tau is currently enrolled in the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television Professional Programs in both Screenwriting and TV Writing. Please like the page for the short film on Facebook (www.facebook.com/keyelukefilm) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/keyelukefilm)





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Mooncake Festival

The Mooncake Festival Potluck on September 7th was a joint gathering with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and the Chinese American Museum. Members gathered at the CHSSC backyard to enjoy mooncake, desserts, movies, and good company under the full moon. The Mid-Autumn Festival is a Chinese tradition that celebrates the harvest, and is considered one of the most important Chinese traditions.



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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 2014

In Memoriam

Ella Yee Quan

1926 – 2014

Ella Yee Quan was born in Santa Barbara, California in 1926. Ella's grandfather came from China in the 1800's to Virginia City, Nevada where he opened a Chinese laundry, then later moved to Santa Barbara and opened a Chinese herb shop.

After high school, Ella went to nursing school for a year. She married Harry Quan. They moved to Los Angeles in 1946 where their son and daughter were born. She worked as a nurses' aide at Good Samaritan Hospital and as a typist for the Department of Water and Power in the 1950's.

In the late 1950's Ella returned to school as a part-time evening student; that was the beginning of her educational history: a Bachelor and Master's degree in Education and an Elementary and Adult Teaching Credential from California State University at Los Angeles; a Secondary and an Administrative Credential from Mount St. Mary's College and a Bilingual Cross Cultural Credential from the University of Southern California.

Ella's long and illustrious career in education began in 1964 and ended with her retirement in 1989. During those years she served as teacher, assistant principal, and principal in seven schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, from Chinatown's Castelar School to Kenter Canyon Elementary in Brentwood. Of special interest was the K.E.Y.S. (Knowledge of English Yields Success) Project which was eventually adopted statewide. She developed bilingual materials for teaching English to non English-speaking Asian students of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Samoan descent.



Ella Quan and Susan Dickson at the recently acquired CHSSC headquarters at 411 Bernard Street in July 1996.

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Ella Yee Quan Continued

Ella's community involvement has included being a den mother and scout leader (Pueblo district); Chaperon, Cabinet Officer of the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps; President of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps Parents Auxiliary; Coordinator of the Chinese Language School; Co-Chairperson of the Lotus Festival; Editor of the Chinese New Year Souvenir Book (for 11 years). She was on the Chinese New Year Committee, Los Angeles Chinese Chamber of Commerce from 1974-1989. In addition to other activities, Ella Quan has been a Board Member of Services for Asian American Youth; Asian Rehabilitation Services; Council of Oriental Organizations; and a member of the Asian American Educators Association and the Asian American Education Commission Task Force.

Ella Quan was a panel Committee Member of the California State Legal Compliance Commission for Curriculum materials; coordinated the Chinatown New Year Carnival from 1965 to 1988; was Founder and President of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California; co-edited *The Golden Years 1938-1988* (Los Angeles Chinatown 50th Anniversary Publication) and co-edited *Gum Saan Journal*, an annual publication of the Chinese Historical Society.

Ella Quan made a significant impact to the society and her community, her presence will be missed. She is survived by sister Mary Young, daughter Cynthia Quan-Trotter, son Richard Quan, daughter-in-law Virginia, grandchildren Matthew, Andrew, Megan, Christopher, Joshua and Sarah Quan. The family wishes to have a private ceremony (immediate family only).

Condolences may be sent to the Quan's home:
321 Avenue 64
Pasadena, CA 91105

Donations may be made in her honor to San Gabriel Presbyterian Church or the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.



Silent auction cooks: Cy Wong, Irvin Lai, Ella Quan, Marji Lee, Susan Dickson



6th Annual Chinese American Conference at University of San Diego, July 1999
Franklin Mah, Ella Quan, Susan Dickson, Marji Lee and Irvin Lai



Susan Dickson, Ella Quan, and Peggy Wong in 2000



OCTOBER 2014

Peacock Alley Book Presentation by Dorothy Hom

Despite technical difficulties, Peacock Alley, presented by Dorothy Hom and Susie Ling, was a success thanks to the patience of dedicated attendees who attended. Peacock Alley is a novel loosely based on the life of Dorothy's grandmother in Old Chinatown during the early 20th century. Participants not only discussed the book but were engaged in stories and conversations of Old Chinatown with Dorothy. Copies of Peacock Alley were sold and signed at the end of the event. For more information about Peacock Alley and Dorothy Hom please visit: peacockalleybook.com





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

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Saturday, October 18, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Chinese American Veterans from WWII to Afghanistan
Author Victoria Moy will discuss her forthcoming book
"Fighting for the Dream: Voices of Chinese American Veterans
from WW II to Afghanistan.

Rosemead Library
8800 Valley Blvd.
Rosemead, CA 91770
626 573-5220
colapublib.org

Thursday, October 23, 2014, 7pm

South Pasadena Book Talk and Signing

Arthur Dong Presents His New Book, *Forbidden City, U.S.A.*
Forbidden City, USA captures the magic and glamour of a Chinese American nightclub scene that peaked in San Francisco during World War II. Filmmaker/writer Arthur Dong spent thirty years interviewing entertainers from this era and collecting hundreds of rare images and objects. The result is a sexy and insightful exploration of a time when Asian Americans pushed against exploitation and racism—as well as expectations from within the community—to pursue their dreams of working in show business. Join Arthur as he discusses 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

South Pasadena Public Library
1100 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, CA

Saturday, October 25, 2014

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP of Southern California
"Creating a Book Online and On-Demand: Passing Family
History to the Next Generation" with Randy Sakamoto
Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.)
415 Bamboo Ln, Los Angeles, CA 90012 cfhgsc@gmail.com

Saturday, October 25, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

L.A. as Subject presents
The 9th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar
Doheny Memorial Library USC University Park Campus.