

JUNE 2015

## Making the Great Transition:

*How 4 Fujianese Families  
Became Christians and Produced  
Two Stranded Scholars from China, 1840-2010*



Presentation by John Chen

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 - 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

For the past 20 years, John Chen has been working on his family history. Reading Ronald Takaki's *Strangers from a Different Shore* kindled his interest. It led to 3 published articles, and a M.A. Thesis Titled, "Managing the Great Transition: The Arrival of Modernization for Four Fujianese Families during the Early Twentieth Century". As part of his thesis, an exhibition depicting four generations of his family is currently on display. It begins in the late Imperial Qing period, passes through the Republican Era, and ends in contemporary America and China. It includes two stranded Chinese American scholars who became his parents."

John Chen will also speak about how one can go about building up a family history collection.

A fourth-generation member of Chinese families that were converted by Protestant missionaries at the turn of the last century, John Chen graduated from Loma Linda University Medical School in 1974. After practicing medicine for almost three decades, he returned to his first interest: the study of history. He finished his M.A. in modern Chinese history at Cal State LA in 2011, and is currently working on a Ph.D. in history at Claremont Graduate University on American religious history.

From May 28 to August 28, the exhibition titled "Ties That Bind: A Transnational Family From China to the U.S." chronicling his family's journey from China to America will be on display at Cal State LA's Kennedy Library.



The Fuzhou Adventist Church with its founders in 1914.  
John Chen's great-grandfather Lin Shengzhai is in the back second from the left.



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## Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors 2015-2016

The following have been nominated to the Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California Board of Directors of 2015-2016

### Officers

President - Don Loo  
Vice President - Winifred Lew  
VP for Programs - Gordon Hom  
Secretary - Helen Quon  
Membership Sec. - Susan Dickson  
Treasurer - Simon Chhuor

### Members at Large for 2-year Term

Linda Bentz  
John Chan  
Rick Eng  
Kelly Fong  
Henry Leong  
Richard Liu  
Franklin Mah

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

Gilbert Hom  
Shirley Chu Ng  
Eugene W. Moy

Board members serve from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.  
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 3, 2015 meeting at  
Castelar Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room.

## Board of Directors

### Officers

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

### Members at Large

Rick Eng  
Gilbert Hom  
Gordon Hom  
Clement Lai  
Lawrence Lan  
Laura Ng  
Shirley Chu Ng  
Eugene W. Moy  
Mei T. Ong

## 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.



# Roads Into and Out of Chinatown

*by Annie Chin Siu D.D.S.*



Special guest Annie Siu, D.D.S., joined the Chinese Historical Society at Castelar to present her autobiography, *Roads Into and Out of Chinatown*. Dr. Siu spoke very candidly about her life experiences and admitted that she did not set out to be a pioneer. Although she refers to herself as the “Accidental Dentist,” her accomplishments have inspired many others. Determination and hard work were the tools that helped carve an unconventional path for herself and for the Chinese American community. The CHSSC appreciated Dr. Siu and her time to speak and share her experiences with an enthused audience of Society members and community supporters. By allowing the Society this opportunity to hear her perspectives and ask her questions, she imparted a valuable gift: a world of possibilities. After the meeting, attendees were treated to an exclusive book signing and photo opportunities. Dr. Siu’s autobiography *Roads Into and Out of Chinatown* is now available for purchase.



## **Congratulations to the Winners of the Irvin R. Lai Memorial Scholarship**

### **Lucena Lau Valle – Graduate Student, UC Irvine**

Lucena Lau Valle is currently a Ph.D. student in the program in Culture and Theory in the School of Humanities at UC Irvine, and received a M.S. in the History of Art and Design from Pratt Institute. Her research examines the intersection of ethnicity, community, economy, and place making in Los Angeles, and was a recipient of the 2014 Latino Museum Studies Fellowship at the Smithsonian Latino Center in Washington D.C. She has a background in museum studies, and was formerly a museum educator at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. Lucena was recently selected for the UC Irvine Humanities Out There Teaching Fellowship offered through the Humanities Commons at UC Irvine.

### **Jessica Thach – Undergraduate Student, UCLA**

Jessica Thach is an undergraduate at UCLA majoring in Asian American Studies and minoring in Education. She advocates working with underserved Asian American communities, particularly those from Southeast Asia in Oakland, California. In the future, she plans to go to graduate school and study Southeast Asian communities in education.

### **Cherry Lai – Undergraduate Student, UCLA**

Cherry Lai is currently a fourth-year undergraduate double majoring in Sociology and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the impact of birth tourism through the value of citizenship, transnational mobility and return-migration pattern from China to Hong Kong and the United States. She aspires to become a college professor in Sociology/Asian American Studies in the future because she wants to pay it forward to students as her mentors have done for her.



Photos by O.C. Lee



JUNE 2015

*IN MEMORIAM*

*Albert Lew*  
*1924-2015*

*Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Charter Member,  
Community Service Leader, & Friend  
Our Condolences to the Lew and Leung Families*



*Memorial Service:  
Saturday, June 6, 2015  
10:00 AM- 12:00 Noon*

*San Gabriel Presbyterian Church  
200 W Las Tunas Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91776*

*The Family Requests that guests arrive in colorful dress for this occasion.  
In lieu of flowers, donations to the CHSSC or CAM are welcome*

## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Memorial Gate and Driveway



Thank you to those who have contributed to the Memorial Gate. We are excited to take this step forward and announce that we have repaved the driveway of our Bernard Street headquarters. Riddled with cracks and damaged asphalt, the old driveway was completely removed. The base was regraded with sand and gravel and then repaved with brick paverstones. This would not have been possible without the generous donations of our members.

It has been 20 years since we have acquired the two Victorian era houses on Bernard St., and our capital campaign is still ongoing. This driveway is the first step in many renovation projects. For more information on our ongoing efforts and how you can donate to our capital improvement campaign, please contact our administrator Fenton Eng at (323)222-0856 or [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com).



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## Locke, California Centennial Celebration



On May 9, a contingent of CHSSC members travelled to Locke, California to attend its centennial celebration. Locke, which is located in the Sacramento River delta region, is the only remaining town built by Chinese for Chinese. The first three buildings, a store, a boarding house, and a gambling house, were the nucleus of the town which was built on 10 acres of a pear orchard leased from the family of George Locke. During the year, Locke had a permanent population of 400, but it would swell to 1,000 during harvest season. The men primarily worked long hours in the pear orchards and the asparagus fields while some women found jobs in the packing shed that was located across River Road from Locke. The main residential section of Locke, Key Street, also included a missionary Baptist church. The children walked a mile to Walnut Grove to attend the Oriental School, which was segregated.



The centennial celebration was organized by the Locke Foundation. The 300 guests with reservations sat at the many tables in the middle of Main Street for lunch and Chinese cultural entertainment, while many other visitors packed the wooden sidewalks. As a historic town, Locke has many sights for visitors, but the celebration included other activities. The Locke Museum, which is in a former boarding house, has rooms with furniture and artifacts used by the migrant Chinese farmworkers. A special exhibit of the Flying Tigers was also on display there. To hear the history of the Chinese in the delta region, visitors could go to the Joe Shoong Chinese School where a number of speakers gave talks or showed films related to Chinese American history. Established in 1926, this school was where Locke children learned Chinese language and culture after attending regular school. In addition, the Dai Loy gambling joint hall has been made into a museum. Visitors could also stroll into storefronts which are now art galleries. But the old wooden facades remain, and the Locke Main Street district has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark.



CHSSC was an official co-sponsor of this event. We are proud to honor the contributions and courage of these early Chinese immigrants who helped California grow and prosper.

If you missed this trip, you can visit Locke on your own; the Locke Foundation has an informative web site: <http://www.locke-foundation.org>. There will be another event in Locke coming up on May 31, as part of the Centennial celebration. It is a talk and readings from the book *Bitter Melon: Inside America's Last Rural Chinese Town* by authors and photographers James Motlow and Jeff Gillenkirck; see <http://www.bittermelonbook.com/new> for more information. For some insight into life in Locke, pick up the 2012 issue of our Gum Saan Journal, which was dedicated to the life of our late President, Irvin Lai. Read about Irvin, born in 1927 on a farm outside of Locke, and his early life as a "Chinese Huck Finn", picking pears and trapping skunks to earn extra money.



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.chssc.org](http://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

**Thursday, June 4, 2015 7:30 p.m. Free.**

**Huntington Library East Asian Garden Lecture - Emperor Qianlong's Entrusted-to-Serenity Mountain Villa (Jingji Shanzhuang 靜寄山莊): The Reconstruction of a Lost Imperial Garden**

Fu Shen 傅申, the eminent Chinese art historian and calligrapher, Professor Emeritus at National Taiwan University in Taipei, will discuss the great Qing dynasty imperial garden retreat Entrusted-to-Serenity Mountain Villa, completed during the reign of Qianlong (1736-1795). Located at Mount Pan 盤山, near the city of Tianjin, the retreat was second in importance only to the Mountain Villa to Escape the Heat (Bishu Shanzhuang 避暑山莊), the Imperial summer palace in Chengde. Rothenberg Hall, 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108

**Saturday, June 6th, 2015 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**Albert Lew Memorial Service**

San Gabriel Presbyterian Church  
200 W Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776

**Now through July 11, 2015**

**Lecture & demonstration on May 30 @ 1:30**

**Qi Baishi: China's Modern Master**

Qi Baishi is known as the Chinese Picasso. This exhibition consisting of paintings, seal carvings and woodwork that have never before been seen outside of China. Qi Baishi (齊白石, 1864-1957) focused on the smaller things of the world rather than the large landscape. Shrimp, fish, crabs, frogs, insects, and peaches were his favorite subjects.

Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana.

For more information on the exhibition and the lecture please visit [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org).

**Sunday, June 7, 2015 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Marie Northrup Lecture Series: Chinatown and Beyond**

The 23rd Annual Marie Northrup Lecture Series, presented by the Los Angeles City Historical Society, focuses on the theme: "Whatever Happened to the Historic Ethnic Communities of Los Angeles? - Part 2" The third lecture features Eugene Moy, past President of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and Board Member of the Chinese American Museum. Free and open to the public, no reservation required. Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

## Save The Date

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

**The 40th Anniversary Banquet**

**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California**