

# NEWS'N NOTES



## 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)

AUGUST 2016

## Golden Spike Awards Luncheon *Stewards of Our History*

Saturday August 27th, 2016

The following five organizations are this year's Golden Spike Awards honorees. They are the gateway to our unique culture and have established themselves as pillars within the Chinese American community. Whether it is cultivating a sense of community through education, providing services for the immigrant population, encouraging healthy living, or providing a place of learning and comfort, these organizations are stewards guiding our journey as Chinese Americans.

# CSUN

CALIFORNIA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORTHRIDGE

The Department of Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge was founded in 1990 after members of the campus community, including students, faculty, and administrators, recognized the need for an Ethnic Studies unit for the CSUN Asian American population. It is the second oldest Asian American Studies unit with departmental status in the nation. In the past 26 years, CSUN AAS has built an interdisciplinary department with a major and minor grounded in issues of social justice, community collaboration, empowerment, and critical thinking surrounding issues of race, racism, and oppression.

Website: [www.csun.edu/humanities/asian-american-studies](http://www.csun.edu/humanities/asian-american-studies)



華埠服務中心  
Chinatown Service Center

Thriving lives and empowering the community. Founded in 1971, Chinatown Service Center (CSC) is the oldest and largest community health and social service organization serving the local Chinese American community. Today, CSC has expanded their services and outreach to provide a variety of services to the underserved and disadvantaged immigrants and minorities in Southern California for the betterment of their quality of life.

Chinatown Service Center is proud to offer their services and assistance in languages reflective of our diverse community: Cantonese, Mandarin, Toisan, Chiu Chow, Vietnamese, Japanese, Spanish and Khmer (Cambodian)

Website: [www.cscla.org](http://www.cscla.org)

## Friends of the Chinatown Library

The Friends of the Chinatown library was founded in December, 1976 to bring library service to the Chinatown community to improve and enrich the lives of library users of all ages, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. The Los Angeles branch of the Chinatown Library became a reality in February, 1977. During the 26 years that the LA Chinatown branch library shared space at Castelar School, the friends funded two large expansion projects. The Chinatown library moved to its current location in 2003.

The Friends with its board of directors and volunteers support and supplement the library with resources and services. In addition, the friends have funded over 300 scholarships to high school seniors and Evans Adult School students from the Chinatown community.

Website: [www.friendsocl.org/](http://www.friendsocl.org/)



The Los Angeles Firecracker Run Committee, Inc. (LACFRC, Inc.) is a community-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a non-salaried group of volunteers who donate their time and energies to organize and stage an annual run/walk and bike rides event and to promote activities beneficial to the Los Angeles Chinatown community. The "Firecracker Run" is recognized as one of the best organized events in the running community. For 36 years, the event remains participant-oriented; to make his/her participation as memorable and enjoyable as possible.

Website: [www.firecracker10k.org/](http://www.firecracker10k.org/)

UCLA

Asian American  
Studies Center

*Bridging Research with Community*

For over forty years, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has been engaged in researching and documenting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities – past and present. The Center, through its students, staff, and faculty, has forged community partnerships with the aim of producing knowledge that benefits all involved, rooted in the greater Los Angeles area, but also extending nationally and internationally. Multidisciplinary, transnational, and comparative approaches, moreover, have enriched the understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander issues in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and policy-related areas.

Website: [www.aasc.ucla.edu/](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/)



## Golden Spike Awards Co-Emcees

Ed Lew and Faith Lee are two community figures who have lent their voices to many noble causes. The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is honored that they will be co-emceeding the 2016 Golden Spike Awards Luncheon on Saturday, August 27, at the Hilton Los Angeles-San Gabriel. They are no strangers to performing hosting duties for community events.

Ed Lew is involved with several volunteer-based, non-profit organizations, including the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (APABA), OCA-Greater Los Angeles Chapter and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Los Angeles Chapter.

Formerly a reporter and anchor for Skylink TV, Faith Lee has covered politics, public policies and local issues and legislation that impacts the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Faith currently serves as the Regional Co-Director of California Young Democrats, API Caucus and most recently began working for California State Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41).



The CHSSC has one of the most active volunteer and internship programs thanks to the friendships we have built in recent years. The hard work of the people listed below have led to improvements in our library, archives, research, and facilities, and we here at the CHSSC are reminded every day of their efforts. Many of the interns who have completed their internships here at CHSSC have returned to visit and help when they can. We have no doubt that our community will continue to benefit from them for years to come. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and interns for their time dedicated and for the fond memories here at CHSSC.

John Chan  
Hermy Chen  
Teresa Chung  
David Duong  
Erika Eng  
Jose Estrada  
Yiming Ha  
Ryan Ichinaga

Maryann Kong  
Rex Le  
Bill Lee  
Cindy Lin  
Betty Liu  
Meisan Ly  
Johnny Nguyen

Simon Poon  
Pauline Saisirikul  
Annie Tang  
Nate Tuvalu  
Serena Wu  
Muyan Xia  
Caleb Yu

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Gordon Hom, President  
Linda Bentz, Vice President  
Winifred Lew, Secretary  
Simon Chhuor, Treasurer  
John Chan, VP for Programs  
Susan Dickson, Membership Sec.

### Members at Large

Teresa Chung  
Rick Eng  
Kelly Fong  
Gilbert Hom  
Richard Liu  
Donald Loo  
Franklin Mah  
Eugene W. Moy  
Helen Quon  
Anthony Tjio

## 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.



Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

**Golden Spike Awards Luncheon**

*Stewards of Our History*

Saturday, August 27, 2016 – 11:30 am

**Hilton Los Angeles/ San Gabriel** 225 West Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91776

*In Recognition of*

**California State University, Northridge, Asian American Studies Department**

**Chinatown Service Center**

**Friends of the Chinatown Library**

**Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee**

**UCLA Asian American Studies Center**

Please reserve \_\_\_ tickets @ \$75 per person (members or tickets purchased before Wednesday July 13, 2016),  
\_\_\_ tickets @ \$100 per person (non-members), OR

I wish to be a:  **Jade Table Sponsor \$750 (Table of 10)**     **Gold Table Sponsor \$1,000  
(Table of 10 + Full Page Ad  
in Program Booklet)**

**Sponsor Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list guest names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I want to donate raffle item(s): Please call me at (    )** \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to place an ad in your event program. Please call me at (    )** \_\_\_\_\_
- I/we will not be able to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation will go towards supporting the CHSSC's mission to seek, preserve, and share the history of Chinese in America.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Total Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by August 19, 2016 **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



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of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

## 2016 GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
2016 Golden Spike Awards and Luncheon  
“Stewards of Our History”

### HONOREES

- California State University, Northridge,  
Asian American Studies Dept.
- Chinatown Service Center
- Los Angeles Firecracker Run Committee, Inc.
- Friends of the Chinatown Library
- UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Saturday, August 27, 2016 11:30am

Hilton of Los Angeles/San Gabriel  
Ballroom A  
225 West Valley Blvd.  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

### TICKETS

- \$75.00/person for Members and Early Bird  
(before Wednesday, July 13, 2016).
- \$100.00/person for Non-Members and Walk-In

Checks made payable to “Chinese Historical  
Society of Southern California” or “CHSSC”

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

**Jade Sponsor** - \$750.00/table of ten

- Acknowledgement at Program Presentation
- Recognition in Program Book

**Gold Sponsor** - \$1,000.00/table of ten

- Acknowledgement at Program Presentation
- Recognition in Program Book
- Full Page Ad in Program Book (\$450.00 value)
- Special Thank You Gift\*

### RAFFLE DONORS

- Recognition in Program Book

### PROGRAM BOOK

- Program Book Sponsorship - \$1,000.00
- Full Page \$450.00 - 7" w x 10" h
- Half Page \$250.00 - 7" w x 5" h
- Quarter page \$150.00 - 3½" w x 5" h

Information about the awards luncheon  
is available at [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

\*Special Thank You Gift for **Gold Sponsorship**  
level includes CHSSC canvas bag and t-shirt;  
copies of *Duty and Honor*, *Portraits of Pride II* and  
other donated items.

Founded in 1975, the Chinese Historical Society of  
Southern California is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Your contributions, donations and gifts may qualify as a  
charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.  
Consult your tax advisor or the IRS. Tax ID: 95-  
3155357

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### Administration

Fenton Fong Eng  
Vincent Huynh  
Marian Chew



## Notes on Chinese American History

*A monthly column about Chinese American History by CHSSC member, William Gow.*

This month I will begin a series of columns focused on Chinese American genealogical research. Like many of you, I was drawn to the CHSSC in part by my interest in family history. I've spent over a decade now researching the history of my own paternal great-grandfather in Oxnard, California in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Some of the findings I have been fortunate enough to publish in various places, including an article in Gum Saan Journal. In this and future columns, I will draw both on my professional graduate training in Asian American history but also on my experiences as a largely self-taught genealogist to discuss issues relevant to doing Chinese American family history research. Not everything I have done in my own genealogy will work for all readers, but it is my hope that at least some of my own experiences will be useful in helping you with your own family history.

At first glance genealogy can seem like an unwieldy topic. While we all have heard fragments of information about the lives of older relatives, many Chinese Americans who think about beginning to document the history of their own family wonder where to begin. After all, each of us has parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, all with their own unique lives. How does one begin the task of documenting their family history in an organized fashion without becoming overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of possible starting points? In order to make the task a bit less unwieldy I would recommend choosing one ancestor to begin the process with and then building outward from the life history of that single individual. As you find information about other family members, you should certainly file that information away, but focusing on a single person will anchor your research and make the work more manageable.

When I began my own research, I knew I wanted to figure out where my own last name came from. "Gow" is certainly not a common spelling for a Chinese last name, and so I figured that if I could determine the story of how my own last name came about, this would be a great way to ground my own research. I decided to begin my research with my paternal great-grandfather, Wong Ah Gow. Focusing on my paternal great-grandfather did not mean that I did not collect information about my great-grandmother or my grandfather or his siblings. Rather all it meant was that my great-grandfather was the starting point from which I organized the life histories of this part of my family.

Beginning with a focus on one individual has a number of benefits. While it is interesting and important to document how many brothers your great-grandmother had, or how exactly you are related to that great aunt of yours you always see at family gatherings, I would argue that the more interesting part of family history is beginning to understand how the trends in local, national, and global history have influenced your own family and how in turn members of your own family have influenced history.

Beginning your family history with one member of your family allows you to see how the actions of that one individual shaped the world in which he or she lived while at the same time understanding how that individual related to and was dependent upon all the other members of the family that surrounded him or her.

While this process can be rewarding for all genealogists regardless of their racial or ethnic background, it is particularly interesting for those of us with Chinese American ancestors who immigrated before the 1965 Immigration Act. US history often depicts Chinese Americans from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as bachelors without families and yet researching our own ancestors from that period—from the very fact that our Chinese American parents and or grandparents had children—allows us to see a fuller picture of the Chinese American community than the one often seen in history books. In this way documenting our own family history and then sharing it with others can play an important role in preserving Asian American history. Next month, I will discuss a few organizing principals for your family history research, once you have settled on a place to begin your research.

A member of the CHSSC for more than a decade, I am currently a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, where I am writing a history of Los Angeles Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s. I invite you to send me general feedback, suggestions, or questions about the column or my academic work. I can be reached by email me at [wgow@outlook.com](mailto:wgow@outlook.com)



Wong Ah Gow and Lou Oy Gow with their children. - Courtesy of William Gow



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*Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)*

### Community Calendar

#### **Friday, August 19, 2016**

**The Finding Cleveland Experience comes to Torrance, CA**  
following standing room only showings in Alhambra and NYC. Doors open at 6:45 so come early and get a great seat. Meet people and get ready to have a night of music by music artists and film makers, Larissa Lam and Baldwin (Only Won) Chiu along with a screening of the award-winning documentary short film, Finding Cleveland. Discussion and Q&A to follow the film. (Note: Film will have Chinese subtitles.)  
Bread of Life Church 9780 Lomita Blvd, Torrance, California 90505 [www.OnlyWon.com](http://www.OnlyWon.com) [www.FindingCleveland.com](http://www.FindingCleveland.com)

#### **Saturday, August 20, 2016**

##### **Chinatown Summer Nights**

943 – 951 N. Broadway, Los Angeles CA 90012  
(Central and West Plazas)

Part food event, part summer party, Chinatown Summer Nights presents an exciting hot spot for Angelenos this summer. Taste the many culinary offerings of Chinatown and LA's gourmet food trucks; sample the neighborhood's wares; watch Chinese chefs perform cooking demonstrations; experience large-scale, outdoor video projections; take part in hands-on Chinese cultural activities presented by local organizations and museums; sip on craft brews and dance in Central Plaza with 89.9 KCRW's DJ's! Presented by the Chinatown Business Improvement District and KCRW, in association with Community Arts Resources (CARs), Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation, and the ChungKing Plaza Association. [www.chinatownsummernights.com/](http://www.chinatownsummernights.com/)

#### **Monday, August 22, 2016 7:00 pm**

##### **Finding Samuel Lowe Film and Book Presentation**

Retired NBC Universal executive, CAM Board member and former Sparks owner Paula Williams Madison and her brothers, Elrick and Howard Williams, were raised in Harlem by their Chinese Jamaican mother, Nell Vera Lowe. Nell encouraged them to realize the rags-to-riches American dream, resulting in their growth from welfare recipients to wealthy entrepreneurs. In order to fulfill a promise to their mother to connect to her estranged father's people, they embark on a journey to uncover their ancestral roots.

<https://vimeo.com/84472327>

Cerritos Library 18025 Bloomfield Ave, Cerritos, CA 90703  
[www.findingsamuellowe.com/](http://www.findingsamuellowe.com/)

#### **Saturday, August 27, 2016 - 11:30am**

##### **Golden Spike Awards Luncheon Stewards of Our History**

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[www.chssc.org/Events/GoldenSpikeLuncheon.aspx](http://www.chssc.org/Events/GoldenSpikeLuncheon.aspx)