

JANUARY 2018

## WAPOW Magazine

*presented by Wendy Chung*

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 6:30 pm

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

Free parking - enter via College Street  
This event is open to the public.

Join us to hear the origin story of L.A. Chinatown's WAPOW Magazine. CHSSC member Wendy Chung talks about the idea behind the publication and the multigenerational team that puts it all together. She also shares her family's connection to different Chinatowns across the world, and how her love of L.A. Chinatown inspired her to launch WAPOW--a project that not only seeks to celebrate the community, but provides a platform to promote community engagement and storytelling in a time of rapid change.

Wendy Chung (鍾佩晶) is an urban planner, media professional and Chinatown enthusiast based in the Greater Los Angeles area. By day, she works for the City of El Monte's Economic Development Department. In her free time, she is an active community volunteer in Chinatown involved with CHSSC, C.A.C.A. and the Chinatown Sustainability Dialogue Group. As a second-generation Chinese American born to Vietnam War refugees, Wendy grew up between the San Gabriel Valley and Chinatown. Her upbringing inspired her passion for civic engagement and a mission to involve more immigrant communities in government and urban planning processes. Through her work in city halls and at USC's Spatial Analysis Lab, she has experimented with multimedia and other nontraditional approaches—such as creative storytelling and community arts to integrate historically underrepresented voices and cultural perspectives in policymaking.

In Spring 2017, Wendy launched the Chinatown Community Media Project, which engages local residents, students, organizations and stakeholders in an interactive process to produce WAPOW Magazine, a new bilingual neighborhood quarterly. As L.A. Chinatown experiences rapid change, WAPOW has sought to be a bridge connecting residents to each other through storytelling; as well as connecting residents to local resources.

Some of Wendy's past projects have included the City of Cudahy's ONE Magazine, USC Spatial Analysis Lab's EthniCITY Project, and Temple City CONNECT Magazine. She received her Bachelors of Arts degrees in Anthropology and Communication Studies from UCLA, and her dual Masters in Urban Planning and Public Administration from USC. In 2016, she completed a comprehensive economic development assessment of Los Angeles Chinatown.



Photo: Kevin Liao



Photo: Scott Oshima



**JANUARY 2018**

January 2018

Dear Friends of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California,

It's time to join/renew your 2018 membership with the CHSSC.

Your participation as a member will support our mission and programs. This includes free monthly presentations throughout the school year in L.A. Chinatown and surrounding local communities. Chinese Americans highlighted in 2017 included that of filmmakers, biographers, Dodger Team Photographer, tea enthusiast and educator to name a few.

As an educational organization we conduct Chinatown walking tours, collect oral histories and other information about the history of the Chinese in America. Your annual membership fee also includes the receipt of our monthly newsletter, News 'N Notes, our yearly Gum Saan Journal, and discounts on our publications and products.

At our annual fund-raising dinner in May 2017, we recognized "Storytellers" with the Golden Spike Award. At our Spring 2018 dinner we will continue to honor the exceptional accomplishments of Chinese Americans, organizations and institutions in Southern California. As we look forward to our 43rd year as one of the most active community organizations in Los Angeles Chinatown, we hope that you will support our endeavors. Please consider an additional year end gift along with your membership to support our mission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Helen Quon  
Membership Secretary



**Please Renew  
Your Membership Now!**  
Renew online! [www.chssc.org/join/membership.aspx](http://www.chssc.org/join/membership.aspx)



**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.

**The Chinese Historical Society of  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Silver \$ 57.

☐ 100 x 100 Club \$ 100.

☐ Diamond \$ 300.

☐ Student or Senior (60+) \$ 32.

Donation (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 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)

### Make checks payable to CHSSC

We are a 501(c)3  
non-profit organization,  
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I am interested in helping with:

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☐ Publications

☐ Research

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## Notes on Chinese American History

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

Perhaps the first truly academic text on Chinese American history was written by Mary Roberts Coolidge and entitled *Chinese Immigration*. Mary Coolidge, who earlier in her life went by Mary Roberts Smith, was the first woman to hold a faculty appointment in Sociology at Stanford University and eventually the first department chair in the Sociology department at Mills College in Oakland. Coolidge began work on the book in 1892 during a period when the Geary Act, which extended the Chinese Exclusion Act for ten years, was being fiercely debated across the nation. She published *Chinese Immigration* in 1909 only five years after the Chinese Exclusion Act had been extended indefinitely.

During a period of continued anti-Chinese sentiments, Coolidge wrote of the U.S. government's anti-Chinese policies: "The denial of naturalization can no longer be justified by the excuse that the Chinese are inferior either intellectually or industrially; or that they are anarchistic and incapable of citizenship or that they are vicious, unstable and immoral. Fifty years of experience with them here and the disclosure of their natural characteristics at home has shown that they are quite as desirable, tested by the ordinary tests of immigration, as many that we have already received and assimilated..." (Coolidge, 488) Coolidge understood the political stakes of her academic scholarship at that moment in history, and she refused to temper her language or her argument to make her work appear politically objective at a moment in history when political objectivity was not what was needed from scholars. Instead, Coolidge combined her intellectual training as an academic with a fierce passion for Progressive activism, to produce a book that made a rigorous academic case for treating Chinese immigrants as equals to Europeans under American immigration law.

In *Chinese Immigration*, Coolidge laid the blame on Chinese Exclusion squarely on the prejudices of white working class men in California. Coolidge argued that the white working class in California, and in particular Irish immigrants, believed themselves to be threatened by twin forces: Chinese immigrants, on the one hand, and large corporate interests on the other. These white workers used their political clout to advance an anti-Chinese

agenda first at the state level and eventually at the national level. In California, Denis Kearny's Workingman's Party with the support of the Democratic Party pushed through a series of anti-Chinese laws. At the convention to pass a second state Constitution in 1879, the Workingman's party successfully introduced the infamous article nineteen that forbid corporations from hiring Chinese workers or employing them on public works. The courts soon overturned this article of the constitution (though it should be noted that the language remained in the state constitution until 1952). Barred from testifying in court and unable to vote, the Chinese made an ideal scapegoat for this emergent white working class.

According to Coolidge, the eventual passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 was the result in part of the rising importance of California in national politics. California had become a swing state and the Republicans with the end of Reconstruction had begun to loose ground nationally. As a result, both national parties began to court the white working class vote in California. Coolidge writes:

"Since it was much easier and safer for politicians to fight the Chinese than to make war upon the great monopolies, it became their policy to divert and pacify these discontented workingmen with energetic anti-Chinese measures; and the national political parties as represented in Congress, in their turn pacified the Californians by yielding to their demand for Chinese exclusion." (Coolidge, 180)

Coolidge's argument in the book about the causes of Chinese exclusion would come to be known as the "California Thesis." Today, more than a century after its publication, her work continues to be studied and debated by scholars of U.S. immigration and Asian American history.

*William Gow is currently a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley where he is writing a history of Los Angeles Chinatown and its relationship to Hollywood in the 1930s and 1940s. He has been a CHSSC member for more than a decade. He invites feedback, suggestions, or questions about this column and his academic work. William can be reached by email at [wgow@outlook.com](mailto:wgow@outlook.com)*

A warm thanks and appreciation  
to 2017's major donors  
and their contributions  
in support of the CHSSC:

Dr. Annie Siu  
James Louie

Thank you  
to our diamond members  
for the year of 2018 for your  
dedication to the CHSSC:

Rose Marie Lee  
Dean & Shirley Chu Ng  
Colin & Candice Tom





# 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)

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

## Community Calendar

**Thursday, January 4, 2018 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

### **Chinatown After Dark @ Far East**

Chinatown After Dark happens on the First Thursdays at Far East Plaza. The monthly event features an opportunity for innovative chefs to test out new menu items and pop-up concepts. Chinatown's regulars promote specials and other incentives. Each month's event feature talented musical acts from vocalists to DJs to instrumentals. Good vibes under clear skies in the breezy Southern California evening, join us next time and see what's new in the neighborhood!

Far East Plaza 727 N. Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012  
203-680-0243

**Wednesday, January 10, 2017 6:30pm**

### **WAPOW Magazine w/ Editor-in-Chief Wendy Chung**

Join us to hear the origin story of L.A. Chinatown's WAPOW Magazine. CHSSC member Wendy Chung talks about the idea behind the publication and the multigenerational team that puts it all together.

Castelar Elementary School 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 Free parking - enter via College Street  
This event is open to the public.

**Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 2:00pm**

### **Save Music in Chinatown**

An all-ages gig benefiting Castelar Elementary's music program. Bring your kids and granny for baked goodies and come punk rock.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door,  
and free for kids under age 12.

Grand Star Jazz Club, 943 Sun Mun Way, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Monday, Jan, 29 – Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 8:30am – 5pm**

### **Chinese American Genealogy Workshop**

The workshop provides insightful presentations on Chinese genealogy research. It instructs attendees on how to use various techniques to advance their own research and discover the interesting information pertaining to their family/clan history and to identify those resources that can best serve them. The ancestral villages of attendees will be identified and located – the primary source for family genealogy books.

Maile Room (mezzanine level near escalators)

California Hotel & Casino 12 E. Ogden Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89101 702-385-1222

Email Harry Tom for information: [Henry.Tom@cox.net](mailto:Henry.Tom@cox.net)

**Saturday, February 17, 2017 – 1PM**

### **119th Golden Dragon Parade**

Join us in the Lunar New Year Festivities! Take part in the 119th Golden Dragon Parade by marching with the CHSSC flag unit, or by relaxing with fellow friends and members at the CHSSC headquarters on Bernard St.

CHSSC, 411 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Thursday, February 22, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.**

### **Chop Suey, USA: How Americans Discovered Chinese Food**

Professor Yong Chen of the University of California, Irvine, will deliver a lecture at Rothenberg Hall. The lecture is free and no reservation is needed.

Yong Chen sits on the National Park Committee on Landmarks and is the only Asian American and one of the few Westerners (as opposed to East Coast folks) on that committee. Do try to meet him at the "coffee-tea" reception after the talk.