



JUNE 2018

## The Chinese American Digital Oral History Project in Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley

*presented by July Phun*

Wednesday, June 6, 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.

July Phun will be speaking about the new project she initiated last year: *The Chinese American Digital Oral History Project in Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley*. There will be a display about the current project her team is working on in collaboration with the Chinese American Engineers and Scientists Scholarship Foundation of Southern California. She will also speak about the previous oral history project done at UCLA that led to both her dissertation and current work on Chinese herbalists.



July Phun received her BA in history from the University of California, San Diego (2000) and an MA in history from California State University, Los Angeles (2006). She completed her dissertation entitled "Contours of Care: the Influenza Pandemic, Public Health, and the Asian

American Community in Los Angeles, 1918-1941" from the University of California, Irvine (2016). Dr. Phun has been a high school teacher in the San Gabriel Valley and an educator for over fifteen years. She has been a lecturer at Cal State LA in the history department and now in Asian and Asian American Studies since the completion of her masters in 2006. She considers teaching as an integral component of her education and research. July Phun's research centers on Los Angeles as a crossroads for discussions of belonging, exclusion, and contention. She is particularly attracted to the role of public health as a site for these expressions, especially as it relates to the state, the body, and immigration with an eye towards race and gender.





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**The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
Board of Directors 2018-2019**

The following have been announced and elected on May 2, 2018  
to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
Board of Directors of 2018-2019

**Officers**

President - Susan Dickson  
Vice President - Donald Loo  
Secretary - Linda Bentz  
Treasurer - Teresa Chung  
VP for Programs - Gordon Hom  
Membership Sec. - Eugene W. Moy

**Members at Large for 2-year Term**

John Chan  
Wendy Chung  
Cindy Fong  
Lauren Hom  
Winifred Lew  
Franklin Mah  
Felicia Tabing  
(2 OpenSeats)

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

Judy Chou

Board members serve from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.  
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.

**Board of Directors**

**Officers**

Gordon Hom, President  
Linda Bentz, Vice President  
Winifred Lew, Secretary  
Teresa Chung, Treasurer  
John Chan, VP for Programs  
Helen Quon, Membership Sec.

**Members at Large**

Jeannie Chen  
Judy Chou  
Susan Dickson  
Rick Eng  
Kelly Fong  
Gilbert Hom  
Richard Liu  
Donald Loo  
Franklin Mah  
Eugene W. Moy

**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.



# Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton by John Jung

This month we were treated to yet another outstanding talk by long-time Chinese Historical Society supporter and member John Jung. Jung is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology from the California State University in Long Beach who continues to write about the Chinese American peoples and the prejudice they faced integrating into American society. In honor of the 10th anniversary of his book, *Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton*, Jung came to Castelar Elementary to give an overview about the development of the Chinese immigrant community in the Mississippi River Delta. He posed and answered questions about how Chinese peoples navigated their way through the already complicated class and race divisions in the area. Also, he talked about other developments in his research of Chinese Americans in the Mississippi River Delta, including creating a Facebook group where Chinese Americans with ties to the Mississippi Delta can reconnect and learn more about their family histories. Lastly, there was a Q&A session where those in the audience also shared how they faced prejudice growing up as Chinese Americans in the South or the Mississippi River Delta. In addition to Jung's talk, Linda Bentz brought out many treasures from the CHSSC archives, so make sure to come to each meeting so that you won't miss out!

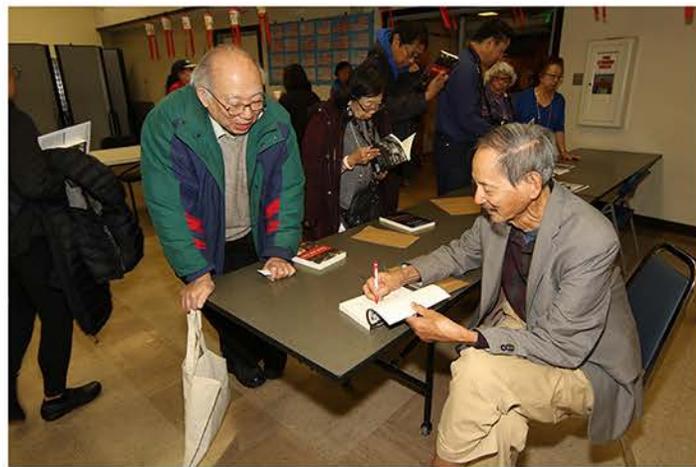
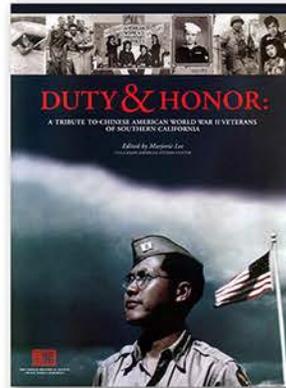


Photo: O.C. Lee

# Archive Spotlight

The Archives Committee is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Friends of the Chinatown Library to digitize the Duty and Honor Collection. In 1994, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) launched an ambitious project to honor Chinese American World War II veterans from Southern California. Hundreds of stories were gathered from men and women who served during the Second World War. This work culminated in a CHSSC-published book, *Duty and Honor: A Tribute to Chinese Americans World War II Veterans of Southern California*, edited by CHSSC member and



UCLA Asian American Studies librarian Marjorie Lee. This special community-based history book and research collection includes anecdotes from veterans who were POWs in Germany, participated in major battles including the invasion of Normandy, and served in various military capacities, including the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Counter Intelligence Corps, and the famed Flying Tigers. This book and the Duty and Honor collection of research materials

held by the CHSSC remain rich sources for scholars conducting work on Chinese American World War II veterans.

On the 20th anniversary of the publication of *Duty and Honor*, this project returns to the Duty and Honor collection with efforts to preserve and update this important collection. This grant would support the first phase of this project, which includes three parts: 1) digitizing materials from the Duty and Honor collection to preserve the archival materials to a 21st century standard; 2) producing transcription summaries for oral history interviews in the collection to make it easier for scholars to navigate the oral histories; 3) and building a finding aid for the collection to upload to the Online Archive of California (OAC) for scholars to find and use our collection.

We want to thank the Friends of Chinatown Library for their generous support. We will provide periodic updates to CHSSC members as the project progresses.

## Calling All "Photographic Memories"!

Our archives are filled with countless photos from our many meetings, field trips, dinners, and events over the past 43 years. CHSSC has scheduled a gathering for interested members, especially those with "total recall", to begin the necessary task of identifying people and locations in those photos. We can walk down memory lane with our friends as we try to recognize people from 20, 30, or 40 years ago. It will be a day of camaraderie and fun, and we need your help. We have scheduled this semi-informal event at Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra, where a few of our long time members (with still young memories!) reside. As this is a private facility and parking is limited, we suggest that you carpool. Light refreshments will be served.

Date: Monday June 28, 2018 Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Location: Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra - 735 Irving St., Alhambra CA - Community Room, 2nd floor  
Please RSVP to CHSSC at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com) so that we can plan for our refreshments.





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The CHSSC is pleased to announce its Sixth pilgrimage to explore Yosemite National Park's Chinese American heritage. This year's trip will be filled with new hikes, a short film screening and talk, and the ever-popular mountain cooking potlucks! Check our website for regular updates and reservation information. Though we are close to capacity for many of our activities, let your friends and other interested parties know about the event!

### **PART 1 – Yosemite activities (preliminary schedule)**

**Thurs 7/26** Arrive at the campsite before sunset. Campgrounds are not open for late arrivals. Dinner worked out in advance or dine at the nearby Big Trees Hotel

**Fri 7/27** 9:30-11 a.m.: Tour Yosemite Valley viewpoints and visitors center

1-4:00 p.m.: Trail hike to Inspiration Point, potential extended hike to old Wawona wagon road (built by Chinese workers, 1875)

**Sat 7/28** 9:30-11 a.m.: Tour newly opened/restored Mariposa Redwood Grove. Hike part of Washburn Road (built by Chinese). 4-4:45 p.m.: What's the connection between the Chinese Exclusion Act and Yosemite? Understand by visiting historic buildings in Wawona and watching a PBS trailer for Exclusion Act and immigration. Then help compose a display which would help people understand the effects of the Act. Set-up 5 p.m., Dinner 6-8:00 p.m.: Potluck dinner at Wawona Community Center, "Chinese Dishes without Chinese Ingredients" with outdoor mountain cooking demonstration(s)

**Sun 7/29** Potluck breakfast, Time TBA

Planning meeting, future heritage tours in CA and elsewhere

### **PART 2 – Sing Peak backpacking trip (for qualified hikers)**

**Mon 7/30-Wed 8/1** Moderate backpacking for experienced hikers to Sing Peak 10,552' elev.

Backpackers provide own gear and food. Contact Jack Shu - [jkshu52@gmail.com](mailto:jkshu52@gmail.com) or (619) 708-2050 regarding space on Wilderness Permits and trip itinerary.

### **Accommodations:**

#### **Campground**

If you are interested in using the free tent campsites reserved for volunteers, email Jack Shu at [jkshu52@gmail.com](mailto:jkshu52@gmail.com) with your responses for questions 1-3 below and the kind of tent you will be using.

#### **Cabins at The Redwoods at Yosemite:**

4 nights (7/26-7/29) or 3 nights (7/26-7/28 or 7/27-7/29)  
Estim. rate \$60-80 per person per night private room,  
\$50-60 shared

If you are interested in reserving cabin space, email the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California at this address: [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com) with the following information.

1. Name, phone number and email address
2. Date and time of arrival and departure
3. Number of people
4. Whether you want a bedroom for two or to sleep in a shared space.

Contact CHSSC staff (323) 222-0856 or [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)



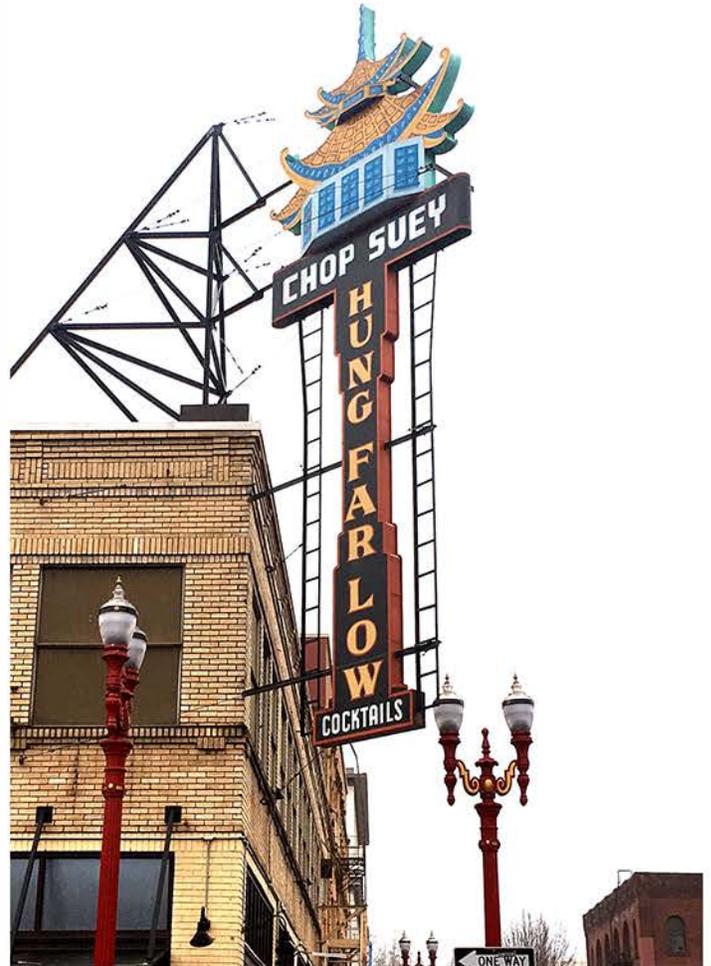
## Notes on Chinese American History

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

At the end of December, my wife and I spent a few days in Portland, Oregon where we visited the local Chinatown. As in many other North American Chinatowns, a massive gate welcomed us to the community, but beyond the gate we found only a handful of Chinese restaurants, most of which seemed to be clinging to existence. A large neon-sign for the old Hung Far Low Chop Suey restaurant pointed to better decades before. While most of the Chinese restaurants in Portland's Chinatown seemed to be struggling, there was one destination in Portland's Chinatown that all our guidebooks stated we had to visit: the Lan Su Garden.

The garden opened in the fall of 2000 as part of a sister city arrangement between Portland and the Chinese port city of Suzhou. Artisans from Suzhou constructed the garden in part with rock imported from China. Constructed to represent a private home of a wealthy family in sixteenth century China, Lan Su Garden is perfectly maintained and strikingly beautiful. On the day we visited snow and ice clung to the rooftops of buildings and tops of trees. Unlike the struggling Chinese restaurants outside, the garden attracts a sizable number of tourists who take in its small lake, terrace, and teahouse. Every Portland guidebook that I looked at listed the garden as one of the city's main attractions. While ideally the garden would revitalize the local Chinese American businesses, on my visit, I could not help but think about the ways in which the garden might actually serve to deflect the tourist gaze away from the history of the Chinatown and its residents. On the day we visited, none of its exhibits provided any background on the history of the Chinese American community in Portland. Instead I saw the Lan Su garden as attempting to provide visitors with a type of idealized re-creation of particular vision of Chinese history and culture as static, perhaps even ossified. In 1978, the scholar Edward Said introduced the idea of Orientalism to describe the ways in which the West created an objectified and imagined Orient. According to Said, one of the purposes of Orientalism was to portray the West as dynamic, modern, and forward moving in contrast to the Orient of the Western imagination, which was often portrayed as a passive object resigned to the past. In this way the imagined Orient became the object against which Western modernity defined itself. Despite being a co-venture between the China and the United States, I could not help but wonder if the garden in its own also represents a type of Orientalism. Not only did the garden explain little about the history of Chinatown in Portland but it also made no effort to explain the long history of similar gardens built mainly for tourists in the United States which stretch back to the World's Fairs of the nineteenth century.

As a visitor to Portland, I was much more interested in learning about the history of the Hung Far Low sign and than in visiting the garden. I later learned that the sign was for a restaurant originally opened by local resident Wong On in 1928. As CHSSC member John Jung points out in his book, *Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Restaurants*, this was a moment when it was common for Chinese restaurants to transliterate their names rather than give



Hung Far Lowe sign in Portland, Oregon. Photo by William Gow

restaurants equivalent names in English. Jung points out that the name Hung Far Low means Red Flower Tower or Apricot Blossom Building, and yet the name as transliterated came to be a source of amusement for non-Chinese speaking visitors. The restaurant moved in 2005 to east 82nd Street, where there is a growing Asian American community, before closing for good in 2015. The sign was removed in 2008 but a community effort eventually led to its restoration and rededication in 2010. Sadly on my visit, there was no place in Chinatown to learn this history. This summer the opening of the new Portland Chinatown Museum will give visitors a chance to learn about the history of Chinese Americans in the region. I cannot wait to return for a visit.

*William Gow a Chinese American historian currently writing a book on the 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)*



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**T**he Chinese Historical Society would like to thank all of its members for making our 43rd annual Golden Spike Award's Gala such a success. Continuing from last year's theme of "Storytellers," this year we honored those who have used film to chronicle what it means to be Chinese American. We are proud to present Golden Spike Awards to: Felicia Lowe, Arthur Dong, Pamela Tom, Visual Communications, and Renee Tajima-Peña. We would also like to thank our Diamond Sponsor, the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation, as well as our Gold Sponsor, Cathay Bank, for their generous support. We look forward to seeing you again next year!





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## CHSSC's Raffle and Silent Auction Committee Receives the Spotlight

With another successful Golden Spikes Award dinner in the record books, attention is now turned to the dedicated women of the Raffle and Silent Auction Committee: Yvonne Chang, Marian Chew, Shirley Chu Ng, Anna Gee and Jeannie Liu. Years ago, Yvonne was CHSSC's administrator, Marian was the Project Manager of the Portraits of Pride book program, and Jeannie a board member. Since no one stepped forward to work on gathering the raffle prizes or creating the center pieces, the three women, with their gifts of creativity and artistry, volunteered to do the job.

In 2015, Shirley became a board member and recruited Anna to join the committee, totaling the committee members to five people. Although the women all lead busy lives, they continue to volunteer every year for CHSSC's annual gala. Below are some of the reasons in their own words:

Yvonne: "I like shopping and organizing events. The addition of Anna Gee and Shirley made the task more fun and easier."

Anna: "The opportunity to utilize some of my computer knowledge also presented a great challenge. The addition of Jeannie and Yvonne made working nice and fun. They are hard-working volunteers and along with Marian's guidance and connection with the Board and Staff made working together all the more pleasant--four years together."

Jeannie: "I have been involved with the dinner committee or raffle committee ever since I became a board member about 10 years ago. Marian, Yvonne and I were on the raffle committee for several years and I enjoyed working with them. We always had fun creating gift baskets and soliciting donations. Now with Shirley and Anna in the group. I feel even more committed to this volunteer activity."

Shirley: "We met as a team to work on soliciting donations, selecting prizes, organizing, and working out the displaying the prize tables at the banquet. We also took care of the raffle ticket sales, and the logistics of workflow at the event."

The 40th anniversary was a big success. We learned a great deal from that event and try to make improvements on it each year. We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of the donors to the event and varied prizes.

Marian Chew is our anchor and gives us much needed support and guidance. Through the years, we have enjoyed working together."





# 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

### **Now through Sunday, June 24, 2018 - 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM** **Wu Bin's Ten Views of a Lingbi Stone**

In ancient China strange and marvelous stones were valued for their beauty and as reflections of the hidden structures underlying the universe. The exhibition focuses on the most extraordinary painting of a stone ever created in China: Wu Bin's Ten Views of a Lingbi Stone (1610), a Ming dynasty handscroll comprising 10 separate views of a single stone from the famous site of Lingbi, Anhui Province.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036  
323-857-6000

### **Now through Saturday, July 14, 2018** **Soul Mining exhibit**

Works on display uncover histories of forced migration, political struggle and transformation, and offer personal narratives to reconcile with these collective experiences.

East Los Angeles College - Vincent Price Art Museum  
1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754  
323-265-8841

### **Now through Sunday, August 19, 2018** **Genghis Khan: The Exhibition**

**Discover the Man Behind the Legend**  
Now the most comprehensive exhibition of Genghis Khan and his treasures invades the Reagan Library, its only Southern California stop on an international tour that has drawn more than a million visitors.

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum  
40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065

### **Saturday, June 9, 2018 - 2:00 PM** **Inseparable: The Original Siamese Twins and Their Rendezvous with American History**

Join us for an afternoon with noted author and acclaimed biographer Yunte Huang. He will be reading from, discussing, and signing his book, "Inseparable: The Original Siamese Twins and Their Rendezvous with American History"

A Guggenheim Fellow, Yunte is currently a professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara.  
Katy Geissert Civic Center Library  
3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 310-618-5955

### **Sunday, June 17, 2018 - 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM** **C.A.C.A. Los Angeles 106th Anniversary and Fundraiser Luncheon**

Established in 1895, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) has fought against racial discrimination, defended civil rights, opposed anti-immigration movements and countered efforts to marginalize American Chinese culture and heritage. Each of the 19 chartered chapter/lodges across the U.S. is dedicated to enhancing civic pride, supporting community services and promoting responsible citizenship. C.A.C.A. Los Angeles was organized on May 15, 1912.

Registration and Silent Auction - 11:30 AM  
Lunch - 12 noon – 2 PM  
Sheraton Los Angeles San Gabriel Hotel  
303 E. Valley Blvd.  
San Gabriel, CA 91776