



MARCH 2018

## An Evening with Filmmaker Renee Tajima-Peña and Visual Communications:

Wednesday, March 7, 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.



*Our Golden Spike Awards Gala is fast approaching and we are excited to have two of our honorees: Renee Tajima-Peña and Visual Communications join us for a showcase of Renee's works. Renee specializes in social documentary films focusing on Asian American and immigrant communities, race, gender, and social change. Don't miss another exciting conversation with a filmmaker that is exploring social boundaries and highlighting immigrant communities through her works.*

*Renee will be joined by Janna Wang, Community Engagement Coordinator for Visual Communications. Janna will be moderating this talk.*

Renee Tajima-Peña is an Academy Award and Emmy Award-nominated filmmaker whose credits include *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*, *MY AMERICA...or Honk if You Love Buddha*, *Labor Women*, *The New Americans*, and her newest film, *No Más Bebés*. Her films have screened at the Cannes, Hong Kong, New Directors/New Films, SXSW, Sundance and Toronto film festivals and the Whitney Biennial and she has been awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship, USA Broad Fellowship, Alpert Award in the Arts for Film/Video, a Peabody and a Dupont-Columbia Award.

Tajima-Peña teaches social documentary at UCLA, where she is a professor of Asian American Studies, the director of the Center for EthnoCommunications and holds an endowed chair in Japanese American Studies. She is an executive producer of the Asian American Studies Center's Lau Chinese American History Mini Docs Project, which profiles Chinese American stories in the Greater Los Angeles area through short documentaries. She was the inaugural Filmmaker-in-Residence of the International Documentary Association and is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Visual Communication's (VC) mission is to develop and support the voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists who empower communities and challenge perspectives. They are the first non-profit organization in the nation dedicated to the honest and accurate portrayals of the Asian Pacific American peoples, communities, and heritage through the media arts. VC was created with the understanding that media and the arts are important vehicles to organize and empower communities, build connections between peoples and generations through the development of AAPI film, video, and media. The organization has created award-winning productions, nurtured and given voice to our youth and seniors, promoted new artistic talent, presented new cinema, and preserved our visual history.

Besides the annual film festival, their programming also include: year-round screenings and exhibitions; the Armed With a Camera Fellowship for Emerging Media Artists; the Digital Histories media production and digital storytelling program for senior citizens; a Film Development Fund for independent filmmakers; and C3: The Conference for Creative Content. Visual Communications is also home to the VC Archives, one of the largest photographic and moving image archives on the Asian Pacific experience in America. VC sees media as a powerful tool to create and share meaningful perspectives, and their programs ensure that the AAPI community has access to the resources tell their unique stories.

Janna Wang graduated UCLA in 2017, where she studied World Arts and Cultures. During school, she was an active member of the Association of Chinese Americans, for which she directed Chinese American Culture Night in Royce Hall. She started as an intern with VC about a year ago, and currently, She is part of this year's festival staff working as a Community Engagement Coordinator and Sponsorship Associate.



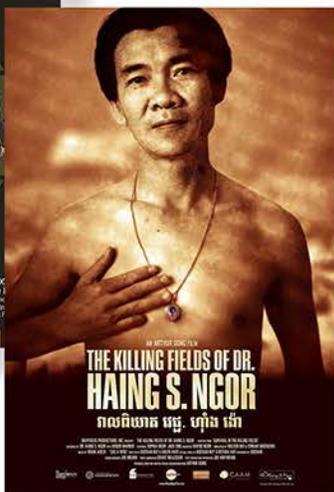
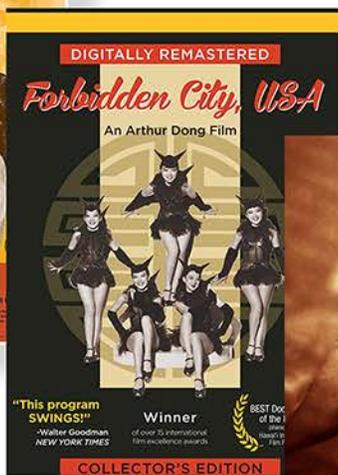
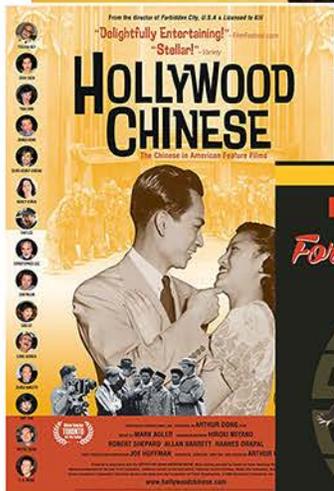


### Monthly Meeting featuring Arthur Dong:

At our last monthly meeting we were joined by American author, filmmaker, and 2018 Golden Spike Awards Honoree Arthur Dong. He presented short clips from a variety of his works and held an intimate Q & A session with the audience afterwards. By sharing his films and documentaries, Arthur represents aspects of the Chinese American experience that are underrepresented in today's world. Many of the topics covered included self-identity, oppression, homophobia, and racism. Arthur sheds light on hidden social issues in the Asian American experience and provides justice to those who are unable to tell their story. Audience members enjoyed cake and tea while mingling with Arthur before and after the presentation. Don't forget to check out Arthur Dong's books and films for sale on Amazon!



Photo: O.C. Lee



### Board of Directors

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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.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## 南加州華人歷史學會

### Annual Golden Spike Awards Gala *Storytellers, Part II*

Saturday, April 28, 2018 –6:00pm

Ocean Seafood Restaurant

750 N Hill St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Recognizing:*

**Arthur Dong**

*Forbidden City, USA, A Toisan Trilogy, The Killing Fields of Dr. Haing S. Ngor*

**Felicia Lowe**

*Chinese Couplets, Chinatown: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco, China: Land of My Father*

**Renee Tajima-Peña**

*Who Killed Vincent Chin, Calavera Highway, My America...or Honk if You Love Buddha*

**Pamela Tom**

*Tyrus, Two Lies*

**Visual Communications**

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Please reserve \_\_\_ tickets @ \$100 per person (members), \_\_\_ tickets @ \$125 per person (non-members), OR

I wish to be a:             Silver Table Sponsor \$1,250             Gold Table Sponsor \$5,000  
                                  Diamond Table Sponsor \$10,000

I want to donate silent auction item(s): Please call me at (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

I want to place an ad in your event program. Please call me at (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

I/we will not be able to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Checks are accepted.** Please remit form and submit payment to: CHSSC 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Credit Card transactions** can be processed online at: [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org) or phoned in during regular business hours

Mon-Fri 10:30AM-2:30PM at: (323) 222-0856.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax I.D. # 95-3155357



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### Annual Golden Spike Awards Gala *Storytellers, Part II*

Saturday, April 28, 2018 –6:00pm

**Ocean Seafood Restaurant**

750 N Hill St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Yes, we will support the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California as a:

**Diamond Sponsor \$10,000**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Diamond Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Invitation to VIP Reception with Honorees
- Reserved PREMIER VIP Tables for twenty (20) at the dinner
- One Full-page ad (Back Cover) in the Annual Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Web Banner with link to Company Website
- Recognition in the Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Special Stage Recognition at the Dinner
- Special giveaways to all attending guests
- Exclusive meal option & wine

**Gold Sponsor \$5,000**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Gold Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Reserved PREFERRED Table for ten (10) at the dinner
- One Full-page ad in the Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Web Banner with link to Company Website- Up to 1 year
- Recognition in the Annual Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

**Silver Sponsor \$1,250**

- Your Company Name and/or logo as Silver Sponsor on all promotional materials for the event
- Reserved Table for ten (10) at the dinner
- Recognition in the Golden Spike Awards Program Book
- Special Recognition at the Dinner

**Ad/Congratulatory Message (Deadline: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. File Type: JPEG, 300 dpi)**

- Back Cover \$1,000 – 8 1/2" w x 11" h
- Inside Cover \$750 – 8 1/2" w x 11" h
- Full Page \$500 – 7 1/2" w x 10" h
- Half Page \$300 – 7 1/2" w x 5" h
- Quarter Page \$250 – 3 3/4" w x 5" h

\* All submissions must be in 300 dpi resolution

Please email all sponsorship inquiries to [chscc@hotmail.com](mailto:chscc@hotmail.com), you may also call us at (323) 222-0856



## Notes on Chinese American History

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

The last extended conversation I had with my great-aunt Margie occurred three years ago when I decided to visit her assisted living complex in Long Beach. I knew my aunt better than I knew most of her generation of my family. As a youth I would see her a few times a year whenever I visited Los Angeles from San Francisco. I knew her to be a generous person with an infectious smile and a large loving heart. As my grandfather's youngest sister, Margie was also the last living link to my grandfather and his siblings. As the family historian, I had long asked her questions about her time as a young person, and whenever I did, she told me that she didn't remember anything.

In many ways, this was understandable. Her youth was difficult. She was born in 1927 in the Southern California town of Oxnard. For the first few years of her life, she lived in a home behind the family store in a district the locals referred to as China Alley. At the time of her birth, Margie's mother was 39. Her father was 74. Margie had five siblings: Tommy, Edward, Anne, Lawrence, and Kay. Death would haunt the Gow family in these early years. In 1929, a month after the stock market crashed, Margie's father died. Three years later, Margie's mother died. Then three years after that her oldest brother Tommy died.

Responsibility for raising Margie and her sister fell to Anne, now the eldest woman of the family. Anne was only nineteen when their mother passed away. With her brothers Edward and Lawrence running the two family stores, Anne and a close friend set out for Los Angeles to look for work. Margie stayed in Oxnard in the care of a close friend of her mother. Margie attended Roosevelt Elementary School for another year until the end of the third grade.

The next year Anne brought Margie and her sister Kay to live with her in Los Angeles, reuniting the three Gow sisters once again. Anne, Kay, and Margie lived with two of Anne's friends in

a rented house at 31st and St. Andrew Streets in West Adams. Margie came of age in this multifaceted community at the height of the Depression. Anne acted as a type of surrogate parent supporting Margie and Kay through her work as a saleswoman at a dress boutique and then as a bookkeeper at a Chinese firm. Despite the financial difficulties the three sisters endured, Margie remained a good student keeping up with her studies and maintaining a high grade point average.

Three years ago at her assisted living facility in Long Beach when I asked my aunt again about her youth, Margie remembered. She spoke at length of arriving in Los Angeles and living with these four other Chinese American women in the rented home on 31st Street. Some of the details remained foggy to her, but the general feeling that she conveyed to me about this period was quite clear. Despite the Great Depression and the absence of both of her parents, Margie seemed to look back on her youth in Los Angeles with fondness. Perhaps it was because it was in Los Angeles as a high school student working at the National Dollar Store that she first met my Uncle Richard, her future husband. They would eventually have three kids together, and Margie would devote much of her adult life to being a mother and homemaker.

Margie Chee passed away on February 2nd, 2018 at the age of ninety. Her life is not the type often recorded in the history books. She did not lead a life marked by the outward accomplishments of a career spent outside the home. Yet in the ways that matter most, she was an example to all who knew her. Despite or perhaps because of her early childhood, she devoted her life to nurturing family and sustaining relationships. At her memorial service, this was clear. As a mother, as a grandmother, as an aunt, and as a friend, she was attentive to relationships and to the people around her. Rest in Peace Auntie Margie, you will be missed.

## Ching Ming

*Saturday, March 31, 2018 10:00am – 12noon*

CHSSC will host Ching Ming (Chinese Memorial Day) Festival. Ceremonies will take place at the historic Chinese Memorial Shrine at Evergreen Cemetery. The Shrine stands at the center of what was once a 19th century Chinese cemetery. Built in 1888 by the people of Los Angeles' Old Chinatown, the Shrine is considered the earliest extant Chinese structure in Los Angeles. The site remains culturally and historically significant and has been designated Los Angeles Historic/Cultural Monument No. 486. It is owned and maintained by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Please join us in cleaning the graves and pay our respects to those who have paved the way for us.



Evergreen Cemetery is located at 204 N Evergreen Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90033. The Chinese Memorial Shrine is located at the east end of Evergreen Cemetery. Enter from Evergreen Ave. Parking is free on adjacent cemetery roads. This event is free and open to the public.



MARCH 2018

# 119th Golden Dragon Parade

February 17, 2017

On a beautiful Saturday at 76 degrees, the 119th annual Golden Dragon Parade kicked off the Lunar New Year celebration in Los Angeles Chinatown with our very own flag unit leading the parade. The CHSSC flag unit was made up of board members, staff, interns, volunteers, students, and our good friends at Rotary District 5280. Happy faces lined the streets, loud cheers and confetti filled the air, and the CHSSC flag unit proudly waved the American flag.

We are grateful for the careful planning from the CHSSC Board Members, staff, and especially Eugene Moy's invaluable time and effort in organizing the parade flag unit. Various local lion dance groups performed in front of CHSSC headquarters to wish us good fortunes for the coming year (Choi Chiang Ceremony). Whether you participated in the parade or watched the telecast at home, we hope everybody had a great time and we hope to see you next year!



Photo: Jermaine Lee



Photo: Jermaine Lee



Photo: Vinson SooHoo



## Archive Spotlight

In collaboration with the Tenement Museum in New York, the 1882 Foundation launched the Your Story Our Story project, which seeks to curate a collection of 50 objects of personal and historical significance to tell Chinese American history. This virtual collection uses photographs of the item and a 150-word narrative, drawing upon the collective archives of organizations, communities, and individuals from across the country. The Your Story Our Story project includes a range of items, including historic buildings, photographs, gravestones, official documents, and porcelain tablewares.

The 1882 Foundation recently invited CHSSC to participate in this project to help represent the Chinese American community in Southern California. The Archives Committee selected three objects from our archives for this project: the Chinese Memorial Shrine; gravestones recovered from Evergreen Cemetery; and an image of Chinese junk, Sun Yun Lee, to represent the Southern California Chinese fishing industry. We are grateful to our intern, Jeannette Nadal, for writing the stories for the shrine and gravestones. To learn more about the project and see our contributions, please visit the Your Story Our Story website at: <https://yourstory.tenement.org/partners/1882-foundation>.



The Chinese Memorial Shrine.  
(Courtesy of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California).



## In Memoriam - George Y Lee

George was born in San Francisco Chinatown in 1921 but was raised insouthern California. His father sent him to Pui Ching boys' school in Canton (Guangdong) to learn Chinese language and culture. When the Japanese began bombing Canton, he fled to Hong Kong and returned home. He attended Manual Arts High School and L. A. City College.

When the US entered World War II, he enlisted into the Army Air Force and worked as an airplane mechanic on the BT-13 trainer plane. He was placed in the Army Specialized Training Program to learn Japanese and cryptanalysis, and was then sent to Guam. He was honorably discharged, achieving the rank of staff sergeant.

He entered Stanford University. His Stanford buddy, Delbert Wong, was getting married and asked if George would dance with his Fresno country cousins, Josephine and Audrey Mar. This is when George first met Audrey who would later become his wife.

George graduated from the California College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons which is today the UC Irvine College of Medicine. After his internship and residency at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center George opened an office in Lawndale. Dr. George offered osteopathic manipulation treatments to his patients. Many family and friends were recipients of these treatments as well.

George married Audrey at the USC church. They raised their family in Inglewood then Rancho Palos Verdes. For over 35 years every summer (with the exception of one), he treated the family to a memorable week at Stanford Sierra Camp at Fallen Leaf Lake. He became a widower when Audrey died unexpectedly.

As his Parkinson's progressed, George slowed down. Feeling a bit helpless, George found a wonderful companion, Betty Hueng, whom he married in 1996. For as long as he could, he would open his doors to serve guests with tremendous hospitality. While his health began to decline, Betty cared for George with incredible attention and love.

On December 25, 2017, George mustered the strength to join his family around the Christmas dinner table. He opened his eyes to take in the faces he dearly loved. A month later on January 30, 2018, he passed away peacefully at home into eternity with his Heavenly Father.

George outlived all his brothers and two of his sisters. He is predeceased by his first wife, Audrey. He is survived by his wife Betty, and his children, Mildred (Ken), Stuart (Sarah), Lorena (Michael), Curt (Vivian), and Brian (Dolly) and grandchildren Sherise, Sherilyn (Nate), Stephanie (Sean), Jennifer, Diana, Patrick, Kristen, Sophia. He is survived by his sisters May and Annie and many nieces and nephews.





## 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)

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email us for your online newsletter at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com)*

### Community Calendar

**Monday, March 5, 2018 - 7:30 pm**

**Wu Man and the Huayin Shadow Puppet Band**

World-renowned pipa virtuoso Wu Man joins the Huayin Shadow Puppet Band for an evening of Chinese folk music and shadow puppetry.

Rothenberg Hall, The Huntington Library,  
1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108

Buy Tickets:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3233704>

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – 6:30 pm**

**An Evening with Renee Tajima-Peña and Visual Communi-**

**cations** Don't miss another exciting conversation with filmmaker Renee Tajima-Peña who is exploring social boundaries and highlighting immigrant communities through her works. Renee will be joined by Janna Wang, Community Engagement Coordinator for Visual Communications. Janna will be moderating this talk.

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

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018 - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Asian Industry B2B March Monthly Mixer**

Celebrating Chinese American History and Business Come to hear two dynamic speakers: Betty Tom Chu, former Mayor of Monterey Park and co-founder of East West Bank, and Eugene Moy of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.

Enjoy catering from CaliFuze. No cost! Donations appreciated.  
17799 E Colima Rd, City of Industry, CA 91748

**Saturday, March 31, 2018 – 10:00am**

**Ch'ing Ming Festival**

Please join us in cleaning the graves at the Chinese Memorial Shrine historical monument at Evergreen Cemetery. We will hold a small ceremony to pay our respects to those who have paved the way for us.

Evergreen Cemetery, 204 N Evergreen Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90033. The Chinese Memorial Shrine is located at the east end of Evergreen Cemetery. Enter from Evergreen Ave. Parking is free on adjacent cemetery roads. This event is free and open to the public.

## Save the Date



Golden Spike Awards Gala

Saturday, April 28, 2018

6:00 pm