

MAY 2018

A Behind the Scenes Look at *Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton*

Wednesday, May 2, 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.

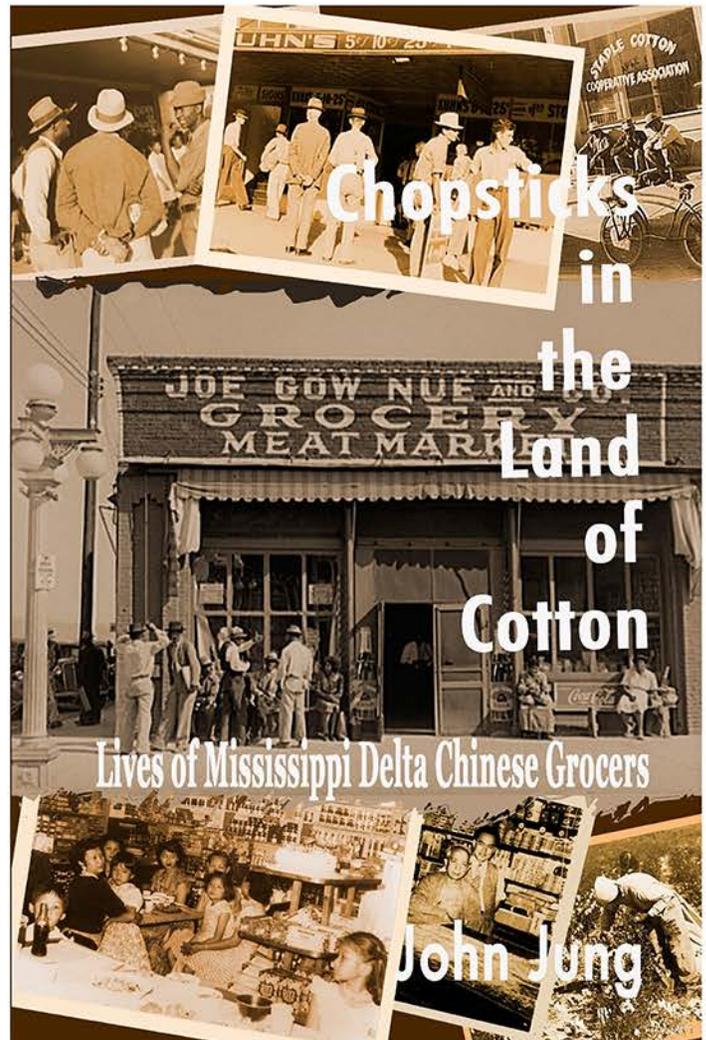
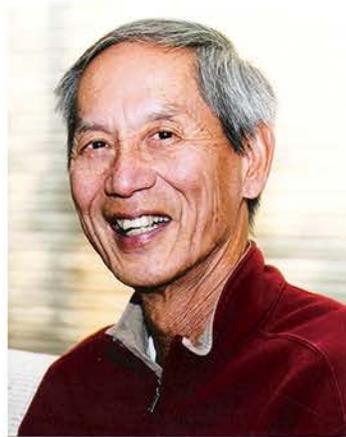
It is the 10th anniversary of John Jung's *Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton* and we are excited to welcome him back to talk about the history of how the book developed and the subsequent events related to it. At our next monthly meeting, John will give an overview of this history as well as give a personal account and share anecdotes of his research, writing, and presentations about this unique Chinese "community" that was "hidden in plain sight" covering many miles from Vicksburg virtually to the lobby of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants found their way to the Mississippi River Delta where for over a century they earned their living operating small family-operated grocery stores in neighborhoods where mostly black cotton plantation workers lived. "Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton" is a social history of the lives of these families and the unique and valuable role they played in their racially segregated communities. Most of those stores and families are now gone, just as national media such as AJ+, NPR, and the New York Times have discovered their story.

(From <http://yinandyangpress.webs.com>)

John Jung is the author of five books on important aspects of the history of Chinese in America that he published after retiring from a 40 year career as a professor of psychology.

His approach to history goes beyond dates and events to examine the life experiences of Chinese immigrants.





MAY 2018

Nominations to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board of Directors 2018-2019

The following have been nominated 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
Laureen Hom
Winifred Lew
Franklin Mah
Felicia Tabing
(2 OpenSeats)

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

Jeannie Chen

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.

Election will take place at the June 6, 2018 meeting at
Castelar Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Room.

*We will accept nominations from the floor at the May meeting.

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 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.



Monthly Meeting Featuring Janet Chen

Our last monthly meeting featured Janet Chen, who is currently the Assistant Director for the Center for EthnoCommunications at UCLA in Asian American Studies. During this meeting, the audience enjoyed watching “Mr. Lau Goes Herbal: Chinese Herbalists,” Chen’s short film about traditional Chinese herbal medicine that was programmed specifically for the Chinese Historical Society. In addition, there were also 5 student filmmakers from EthnoCommunications that played their films relating unique experiences of Asian Americans. “50 Strong: UCLA Dragonboat” by Vivian Lee and Sophia Ling focused on how students felt and worked together as a team in the UCLA dragonboat club. “Bı Keç/Limbo,” by Daniel Lee and Lan Nguyen, told the story about how Tung, a refugee of the Vietnam War, struggled to integrate into American society. “Head of the PACC” by Jade Verdeflor, concentrated on how a group of Filipino American youth kept their culture alive in a majority-white suburb during their high school’s annual Filipino culture night. “Me, Him and the Baby” by Kanako Masuda showed an average day in the life of a Japanese mother and grad student. Finally, “Students in Startups” by Linh Ngau, Michelle Shin, and Mitchell showed the experience of an Asian American student that was beginning to experience the world of today’s avid startup culture. All of these films demonstrated the diverse roles that Asian Americans play in today’s society, and the various difficulties and ordeals that they encounter. Following these films was a short Q&A session with the filmmakers. We would also like to thank all the CHSSC members who came and played a large part in last month’s meeting by helping Linda Bentz identify individuals from photos in the CHSSC archives!



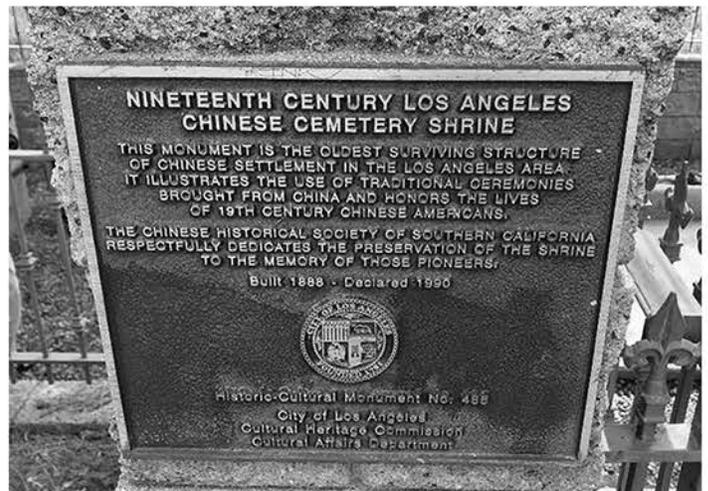
2018 Ching Ming Festival

CHSSC members gathered in Evergreen Cemetery to celebrate Ching Ming at the historic 1888 Chinese shrine on March 31. First, our president, Gordon Hom, mowed the area next to the memorial wall built to commemorate those whose graves had been unearthed during a road expansion by MTA. Our dedicated members then swept and cleaned all the gravesites. In order to honor the ancestors, flowers were placed on each grave marker. Afterwards, we arranged traditional fruit next to the stella at the shrine. Our members lit incense and placed it next to the stella to show respect.

No Ching Ming celebration would be complete without a visit to Donaldina Cameron’s gravesite which is located in a separate part of Evergreen Cemetery in her family’s plot. Thanks to Susan Sing, we had bouquets of flowers for the graves of Donaldina and her family.

Afterwards we drove to Tamales Lilianas restaurant in East LA for camaraderie and good food.

Article Written by Susan Dickson



Photos: O.C. Lee

Last Opportunity!
Don't let your membership lapse.
 Renew online! 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 _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	\$ 57.
<input type="checkbox"/> 100 x 100 Club	\$ 100.
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond	\$ 300.
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
 Website: www.chssc.org

Make checks payable to CHSSC

We are a 501(c)3
 non-profit organization,
 tax ID: 95-3155357

I am interested in helping with:

Programs

Publications

Research

Publicity

Fundraising

Other _____



Announcing the 6th Annual Yosemite-Sing Peak Pilgrimage



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.

PART 1 – Yosemite activities (preliminary schedule)

Fri 7/27 Tour Yosemite Valley viewpoints and visitors center

Trail hike to Inspiration Point: potential extended hike to old Wawona wagon road (built by Chinese workers, 1875)

Possible archaeological site visit

Sat 7/28 Tour newly opened/restored Mariposa Redwood Grove

Hike part of Washburn Road (built by Chinese)

Visit historic buildings in Wawona, including Chinese laundry

Short film and discussion at Gray Barn, Wawona

Potluck dinner at Wawona Community Center,

with outdoor mountain cooking demonstration(s)

Sun 7/29 Potluck breakfast, location TBA

Planning meeting, future heritage tours in CA and elsewhere

Accommodations:

Campground

– free for our group who volunteer for cleanup, other duties

Contact Jack Shu jkshu52@gmail.com

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

Contact CHSSC staff (323) 222-0856 or chssc@hotmail.com

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

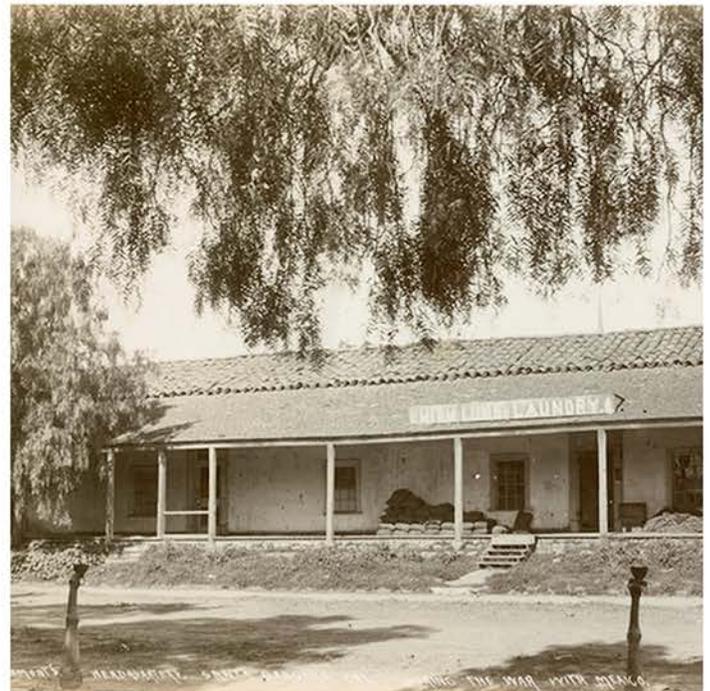
Mon 7/30-Wed 8/1 Moderate backpacking for experienced hikers to Sing Peak 10,552' elev.

Backpackers provide own gear and food.

Archive Spotlight

This month's spotlight features the High Lung Laundry archaeological collection in the CHSSC archives. In 1992, the Santa Barbara Foundation conducted seismic reinforcement of the Hill-Carrillo Adobe in Santa Barbara, built in 1825. During this work, excavation exposed a shaft filled with Chinese artifacts. Archaeologists identified this shaft as a well that associated with the High Lung Laundry, a Chinese laundry on the periphery of Chinatown. It is unclear when the adobe structure became the High Lung Laundry, but evidence suggests that two brothers, Gin Hoo and Gin Fong, operated the laundry in that location by the mid-1890s. According to their immigration files, by 1905, the assessed value of the laundry was \$1400. The laundry employed two washers and six ironers; the washers received \$12 per week and the ironers earned \$10. Rent for the premises was \$25 per month, and the laundry earned a net income of \$60 to \$100 monthly.

In 1995, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation transferred eighty-two barrels of cultural materials to CHSSC for analysis and curation. The collection contains a wide range of artifacts, including porcelain tablewares, brown-glazed stoneware storage vessels, glass vessels, buttons, marbles, medicinal bottles, and safety pins. A variety of these artifacts will be on display at the May monthly meeting.





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Website: www.chssc.org

*Please help us save paper and postage,
email us for your online newsletter at chssc@hotmail.com*

Community Calendar

Thursday, May 3 - Saturday May 12, 2018

The 34th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival produced by Visual Communications

Since 1983, the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival has presented over 4,000 films, videos, and digital mediaworks by Asian international and Asian Pacific American artists, and additionally features seminars and panels, in-person guest appearances, and filmmaker awards. The Film Festival continues to be the largest festival of its kind in Southern California and is the premier showcase for the best and brightest of Asian Pacific American and international cinema.

More info: festival.vconline.org/2018

Sunday, May 6, 2018 - 6:30 PM

The Chinese Exclusion Act

On the 136th anniversary of the passage of the law restricting Chinese labor immigration into the United States, a special screening of the documentary film, *The Chinese Exclusion Act*, will be presented by the Chinese American Museum and Visual Communications with community supporters Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, and PBS SoCal.

A post-screening Q&A will follow with co-directors Ric Burns and Li-Shin Yu of Steeplechase Films. The documentary is a co-production of Steeplechase Films and the Center for Asian American Media. This program is part of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, a Visual Communications production, which runs from May 3-12.

Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 625-0414

Monday, May 7, 2018 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Assembled Like Clouds: Art In Chinese Buddhist Ritual

Dinner and presentation on art in Buddhist rituals by Phillip Bloom, Curator of the Chinese Garden and Director of the Center for East Asian Garden Studies at The Huntington Library.

Golden Dragon Restaurant

960 North Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets:

www.chinasocietyofsocal.org/aboutus/upcomingprogram.html

Friday, May 18, 2018, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Upcoming Exhibition: Don't Believe the Hype: LA Asian Americans in Hip Hop

The Chinese American Museum's newest exhibition, *Don't Believe the Hype: LA Asian Americans in Hip Hop*, looks into hip hop in the greater Los Angeles region as a site of resistance, refuge, and reinvention for today's Asian American communities. Set to open May 18, this groundbreaking exhibition is co-curated by Ninochka "Nosh" McTaggart, PhD, and CAM's newly appointed curator Justin Charles Hoover, and will bring together 13 Asian Americans who have helped to shape L.A.'s hip hop movement.

Chinese American Museum

425 North Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012