

# NEWS'N NOTES



## 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

OCTOBER 2018

## Guest speaker Paula Madison at next meeting

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 6:30pm-9:00pm  
Castelar Elementary School  
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

Free parking (via College Street)  
This event is open to the public

*Our October program will feature a presentation by Paula Madison and screening of her film, Finding Samuel Lowe: From Harlem to China. Madison is the executive producer and subject of the film, which chronicles her search into the story behind her half Chinese, half Jamaican mother, and her journey to her maternal grandfather's homeland in China and the reconnection of her family with his 300 descendants. HarperCollins published a memoir on the journey, Finding Samuel Lowe: China, Jamaica, Harlem in April 2015.*

*Paula Williams Madison is Chairman and CEO of Madison Media Management LLC, a Los Angeles based media consultancy company with global reach.*

IN 2011, Madison retired from NBCUniversal, where she had been Executive Vice President of Diversity and a Vice President of the General Electric Company (GE), then the parent company of NBCU. During her 22 years with NBCU, she held a number of successful leadership roles, including President and General Manager of NBC4 Los Angeles, Los Angeles Regional General Manager for NBCU's Telemundo TV stations and Vice President and News Director of NBC4 New York.

Her career as a journalist led to a 1996 Peabody Award for NBC4 New York's investigation, "A License to Kill." Madison's continued dedication to quality journalism helped NBC4 Los Angeles earn numerous Emmy, Golden Mike, and Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards.

She is a highly sought after public speaker, particularly on the topics of corporate diversity, multi-generational wealth, entrepreneurship and multicultural issues.

Honored for corporate leadership and community outreach, Madison was named one of the "75 Most Powerful African Americans in Corporate America" by Black Enterprise Magazine in 2005 and included in the Hollywood Reporter's "Power 100."



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Photo from LACID's Eastern Tour, 1971.

We are happy to announce a potluck event featuring the Drum & Bugle Corps exhibit. Members of the Corps will be on site to guide the exhibit.

Date: September 29, 2018

Time: 1:00-4:00 pm

Location: 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles

Food to share: Dim sum, fruit or salad for five servings, or donation of \$5.00

CHSSC will provide drinks

Parking will be available on side streets and at the local parking lot.

We hope to see you there!

## New exhibit open featuring the Imperial Dragons

*All for one, and one for all!* by Merrill & Lori Hayase

WHAT'S NEW AT THE CHSSC? Well, a new exhibit has opened: it's the story of the "Imperial Dragons," aka the Los Angeles Chinese Drum & Bugle Corps.

The history of the Corps, from its humble beginnings in 1954 to its last year of competition in 1977, is told through words, pictures, video, and artifacts. A profile of the founder, Bill Lee, is presented, as well as a description of what a drum corps was at the time (today's drum corps are completely different). A section of the exhibit gives tribute to the parents of the Corps members, many being first generation Chinese-Americans.

These parents wanted their children to be surrounded by others with similar backgrounds and to grow in character. The Corps helped by instilling the values of respect and responsibility. It also fostered a competitive spirit, resiliency when faced with less than ideal circumstances, and an awareness of the importance of team work and family.

For those who were around L.A. Chinatown in the 1970s, they might recall the annual Chinese New Year parade and carnival. The Corps sponsored and was responsible for the carnival. As such, the Corps was always the lead unit in the parade so that the members could quickly get to the carnival after marching to help out alongside the parents.

Our Corps thanks the CHSSC for hosting the exhibit and invites you to view the work and labor of love done by volunteer Corps alumni.





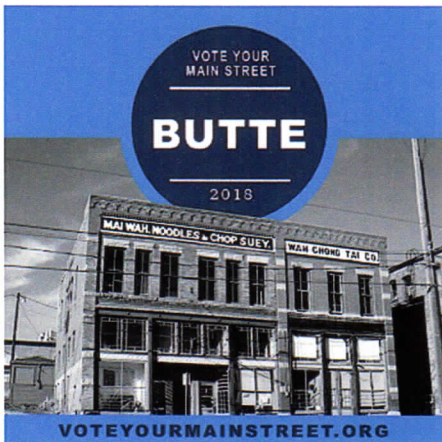
## CHSSC is moving to a new e-mail address

If you'd like to contact us, please e-mail us at [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org).

DEAR CHSSC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

One of our missions is to preserve our Chinese American heritage through historic preservation advocacy. Our friends in Butte, Montana need your help in a competitive vote to win a \$150,000 grant to preserve an important part of Butte's Chinatown. See details below. The Mai Wah Society is the ONLY applicant for an Asian American site in this competition. So VOTE OFTEN -- EVERY DAY, in the coming month.

RESTORE THE MAI WAH -- SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 26



each day. Vote early and vote often -- every day for the Mai Wah project in Butte, Montana. Tell your friends, family colleagues and peers to join in the effort to win this for Butte and Montana!

VOTE EVERY DAY -- SEPTEMBER 24TH - OCTOBER 26 --

[VOTEYOURMAINSTREET.ORG/BUTTE](http://VOTEYOURMAINSTREET.ORG/BUTTE)

Mainstreet Uptown Butte and the Mai Wah Society have been selected to participate in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2018 Partners in Preservation project!

We are competing with 19 other projects to win \$150,000 to restore the Mai Wah and Wah Chong Tai buildings. Less than 10 projects will be funded.

**We need your help to vote and spread the word and to encourage other voters!**

If among the top vote getters, the funds will be used to help preserve these remnants of a once-thriving community of Asian immigrants in Butte and Montana and architectural treasures of Butte.

Share with your friends, family, colleagues and peers far and wide by email, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any way you can spread the word.

Voting is free and takes just a few minutes

## Past programs: Chinese Couplets

THE CHSSC sponsored two film screenings of work by award-winning filmmaker Felicia Lowe this past month. On Tuesday September 4, at Shadow Park in Cerritos, before a standing room only audience, she presented both an early work, *China: Land of My Father* (1979), and her latest, *Chinese Couplets*. The first documented Lowe's journey to her paternal ancestor's village, and meeting her paternal grandmother for the first time. In the second film, Lowe shares her mother's journey from the family village in China to a new identity and a new life in America. The journey took several turns, and required considerable resiliency and self-initiative, but interestingly, it took focused inquiry by Lowe's daughter to coax Lowe's mother into sharing more of her story. This successful Tuesday night screening was followed by a similarly attentive audience at the CHSSC's regular monthly meeting at Castelar School on Wednesday, September 5, at which *Chinese Couplets* was reprised.

Felicia Lowe presents to the audience at Castelar Elementary School her documentary *Chinese Couplets* which explores her Chinese-American identity and relationship with her mother.



## Board of Directors

### Officers

Susan Dickson, President

Donald Loo, Vice President

Linda Bentz, Secretary

Teresa Chung, Treasurer

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Eugene W. Moy, Membership Sec.

### Members at Large

John Chan

Judy Chou

Wendy Chung

Cindy Fong

Laureen Hom

Winifred Lew

Franklin Mah

Felicia Tabing

## 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.



OCTOBER 2018

## Welcome aboard! New faces at CHSSC

*The Chinese Historical Society is pleased to welcome new staff: Laureen Hom, board member; Wendy Chung, board member; Albert Lowe, archivist who will be working in the collections alongside Linda Bentz on research regarding Chinese-American WWII veterans (read more about this in the Archives Spotlight on the last page); Laurel Sardiñas, administrator; and Felicia Yeung Tabing, also coming on as a board member.*

*Here are brief biographies on their backgrounds and interests.*

**Laurel Sardiñas** recently moved to Los Angeles from Philadelphia. There, she was with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania analyzing documents from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Los Angeles, she works with the Chinese American Museum as the Volunteer Coordinator and spends time in their Collections and Records Department. At the Chinese Historical Society, she hopes to find time to work in the archives and learn more about the history of LA Chinatown.

Previously, she graduated with a degree in History from the University of Toronto, and spent a year in Kunming, China studying Mandarin at Yunnan Normal University. She has a cat named Felix, likes spicy food and swimming.

**Laureen Hom** is from San Francisco and recently completed her Ph.D. in Planning, Policy, and Design with an Asian American Studies emphasis at UC Irvine. Her dissertation was about the politics of development in Los Angeles Chinatown, and she worked in New York Chinatown prior to her research. She enjoys learning about the different Chinatowns and exploring new neighborhoods.

**Albert Lowe** is a fourth generation Chinese American from Oakland, California. Albert's recent body of work is in community archives, economic justice, affordable housing and adult education. Albert graduated from CAL and has advanced degrees from UCSD and UCLA. He enjoys reading, binge watching television shows and playing with his dogs, Estelle and Butler.

**Felicia Yeung Tabing** was raised in Suisun City, California, then attended UC Santa Cruz for college. She received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D in mathematics at UCSC. After graduating, Felicia moved to Terre Haute, Indiana for two years for a visiting position in mathematics at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Last year, in 2017, she started her new job as a lecturer of mathematics at USC. She is interested in the connection between mathematics, art, and culture, and creates art based on mathematical ideas. In her free time, she likes to garden, sew, or craft.

**Wendy Chung (鍾佩晶)** was born and raised in Monterey Park. She grew up visiting Chinatown with her family on weekends, eating pho and exploring the plazas along North Broadway. Wendy is a second generation Chinese American. Her parents came to Los Angeles in 1979 as Vietnam War refugees. Her professional background is in urban planning, mass communication and local economic development. In the past, she has worked with the cities of Temple City, Cudahy and El Monte. She is currently transitioning into family business, taking over her parents' 30-plus year-old electrical supply house.

Wendy is passionate about community engagement and creative media. In 2017, she created WAPOW, a bilingual print publication in LA Chinatown that engages a multigenerational team of volunteers to produce a magazine highlighting local Chinatown news and culture. Prior to starting WAPOW, Wendy first got involved in Chinatown organizations through her graduate studies at USC. In 2016, as part of her Dual Master's in Urban Planning and Public Administration, Wendy completed an independent research project examining local economic development in Chinatown, where she remains involved as an active member of Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and Chinese American Citizens Alliance. Wendy's Bachelors of Arts is from UCLA in Anthropology and Communication Studies.

Paula Madison will be presenting at the CHSSC October meeting

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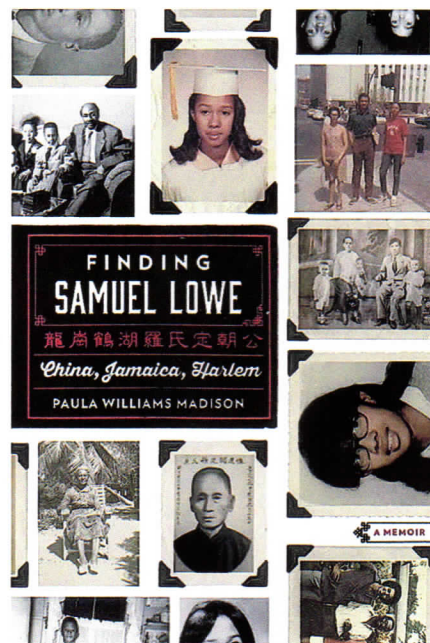
She's been honored by Asian organizations as well, having been recognized in 2014 as one of the Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business, by the East West Players and AARP with their Visionary Award and the Los Angeles Chinese American Museum with its 2015 Chinese American Heritage and Legacy Award. Also in 2015, the Jamaica China Friendship Association honored her at its annual gala in Kingston, Jamaica.

A former marathoner, Madison also received the "Citizen of the Year Award" from the City of Los Angeles Marathon in 2004 and the AntiDefamation League's "2003 Deborah Award." And in 2013, Ebony Magazine named her to its second "Power 100" list.

In August 2013, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Madison to the Los Angeles Police Commission where she served as vice president until 2015. Madison is a Board Member of the Los Angeles Chinese American Museum, the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, the Center for Asian American Media, Cardinal Spellman High School, the Greater Los Angeles United Way, the California Science Center Foundation, Chair of The Nell Williams Family Foundation as well as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

A native of Harlem, Madison and her husband Roosevelt reside in Los Angeles.

We hope to see you on October 3<sup>rd</sup>! After the viewing, there will be an opportunity to ask Paula questions regarding her piece.







OCTOBER 2018

## Phoenix Bakery turns 80



(L-R) Colin Fat, Kelly Chan, Youlin Chan, Pat Ceppi, Chee Fat, Dorothy Chan, Dolan Chan, Ken Chan, Corinne Chee, Weyland Fat

ON SATURDAY, August 25th, Chinatown staple Phoenix Bakery celebrated their 80th year in Los Angeles. Cake was served and a lion dance was performed for patrons of the shop. Congratulations to Phoenix Bakery, and best wishes to many more years!



Miranda Hoh and Ken Chan serve slices of cake to guests.



## LACID: then and now

For the opening of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum & Bugle Corps. exhibit, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California invited members and families of the LACID to visit and enjoy the collection.

Clockwise from right: Getting the exhibit ready; Showing some memorabilia at the opening event; The Imperial Dragons on the Capitol Building's steps in Washington, D.C. in 1971; The opening day of the exhibit at the Chinese Historical Society.







## Notes on Chinese American History

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

IN MAY, after six years in my doctoral program, I finally graduated with my PhD in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley. I complete my degree at a time of growth and expanding possibilities in my field of Asian American history. Asian American history now has an accepted place within the halls of American higher education. The annual conferences of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians regularly feature panels devoted to the field of Asian American history. Specialists in Asian American history hold tenured or tenure track faculty positions in schools ranging from local community colleges to nationally ranked universities like Stanford and UCLA. Yet despite the overall health of the field, the state of the professoriate as a viable career path has never been more precarious.

While many people imagine that all university professors hold lifetime appointments where they teach one or two courses a semester and think, write, and read the rest of the time, the realities of university faculty employment are far different from this widely held idea. Since the 1970s, US universities have increasingly come to rely on what are called contingent faculty to teach their courses. Contingent faculty include both graduate teaching assistants and part-time lecturers. Unlike track tenure faculty positions, which come with generous benefits, high pay, and the possibility of lifetime employment, contingent faculty are paid little, often have few to no benefits, and work more often than not on a short-term basis. According to the American Association for University Professors in 1975 contingent faculty held 43% of all faculty positions, by 2015 contingent faculty made up 70% of all university faculty positions.

This means that recent PhDs in the humanities and the social sciences increasingly enter a job market where short-term, low paying positions are the norm rather than the exception. A 2012 report by the Coalition on the Academic Workforce found that the medium pay per course taught by part-time faculty members in the United States was \$2,700 per

course. As a result, the same survey found that a full three-quarters of the part-time faculty reported annual incomes of less than \$45,000 per year. Many of those unable to land tenure track positions can end up teaching at multiple universities in a single semester, even as they remain unsure of where they will be or what they will be teaching the following semester.

Indeed one of the ironies at the center of the field of Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies more broadly is that that scholars trained in these fields have completed their degrees during a period in which there are fewer and fewer tenure track jobs. Ethnic Studies began to expand in US higher education in the 1970s at the very moment when the number of tenure track faculty positions began to contract. Fields like Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies have contributed to making the American faculty more diverse while documenting and producing new fields of knowledge. Yet university faculty working in these positions are much less likely to hold tenure track positions than humanities and social science scholars in positions fifty years ago. While I am excited to be working in the field of Asian American history at a time when the subject is increasingly accepted as academically legitimate across a wide sections of higher education, I also am wary of the challenges I now face in landing a full-time tenure track position.

*William Gow has been a member of the CHSSC for over a decade. He holds a PhD in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley and is currently working on a book manuscript on Los Angeles Chinatown and its relationship to Hollywood cinema before and during World War II. He welcomes comments and questions about his column and can be reached at [wgow@outlook.com](mailto:wgow@outlook.com).*

### Archive Spotlight

by Linda Bentz



THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE is pleased to announce that we have hired an archivist to process the Duty and Honor collection. Albert Lowe will complete all aspects of the project with the ultimate goal of uploading a finding aid and images of the collection to the On-Line Archive of California. Learn about Albert's background in this issue of News 'n Notes (on previous page).

We want to give a big thank you to Cliff Uyeda for converting the veteran's interviews to a digital format. Twenty years ago the interviews were captured on cassette tapes. This is an outdated media, and we were concerned that we would lose the extremely valuable histories of Asian American World War II veterans. Albert will organize the digitized interviews for the public to hear and enjoy. Please contact CHSSC if you would like to listen to the interviews.

On our bookshelf: *Duty & Honor: A Tribute to Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California* compiled by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and gives profiles of over 400 men and women who served during the war. Available in the CHSSC bookstore.





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*Please help us save paper and postage,*

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

## Community Calendar

### **Saturday, September 29th, 5:00pm-midnight 80th Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival**

After CHSSC's dimsum potluck, head down the street to Chinatown's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival celebration. There will be performances, markets, food, and even a telescope set-up to observe the moon. Admission is free.

Central Plaza  
943 North Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### **Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm 27<sup>th</sup> OCA-GLA Image Awards**

This year's honorees are:

API Equality LA, *Community Impact Award*

Amy Lew, *Community Spirit Award*

Mark Masaoka, *Lifetime Achievement Award*

The Honorable Thomas Wong, *Rising Star Award*

Ocean Star Restaurant  
145 North Atlantic Boulevard, 2nd Floor  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

### **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-5:00pm 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar**

USC Libraries host this event where an array of institutions and historical societies come to share their speciality collections and knowledge in the region's history. CHSSC will have a table. Volunteers needed! If interested, contact the office: [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org).

Doheny Memorial Library, USC University Park Campus  
3550 Trousdale Parkway  
Los Angeles, 90089

### **Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm**

#### **Commemoration of the 1871 Los Angeles Chinese Massacre**

Join the Chinese American Museum and local leaders on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> to observe the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese Massacre.

Pico House  
424 North Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### **Runs October 26, 2018 to January 6, 2019**

#### **Moonlight Forest - Lantern Art Festival 2018**

This fall, the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden invites you to the Moonlight Forest, an unforgettable evening experience of art, culture, and discovery. Masterfully crafted lanterns beckon you into the gardens. Some depict beautiful animals, shimmering exotic flowers, and intriguing figures from Chinese legends. An evening of dazzling color and magic begins!

LA County Arboretum  
301 North Baldwin Avenue  
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please reserve your tickets on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).